

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Eccelesiastical Affairs.

BIBLE LESSONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

If we may judge from the vast number of letters and pamphlets which reach us, in which "the religious difficulty" in the management of public elementary education is brought under consideration, the solutions of the problem are almost as many as the persons who think they are qualified to deal with it. It is so simple in theory, so complex in practice, so easy to be settled on paper, so impossible to be settled in fact, that we are not surprised at the confident tone in which each writer boasts of his method, nor at the sceptical indifference with which each method is regarded by everybody else but its author. Mr. Forster, perhaps, might have been more correctly informed, than to have supposed that the difficulty would diminish the more closely it was approached, and that what seemed from a distance an ascent hardly to be scaled by the most adventurous would present itself at last as a table-land, to be cantered over even by the timid. But it is not at all an unaccountable thing that he should have missed the mark. Many men—eminent statesmen too—have made the same mistake till they tried. Parliamentary politicians are perplexed out of all patience by phenomena that they are unable to account for. Literary writers profit by the cheap opportunity it offers them of professing their utter contempt of sectarian differences of faith, which those who have never cultivated trustful rest in the verities of Christianity may very well do. Finally, conferences of gentlemen whose thinking is done in platoons, and who are quite unaccustomed to turn over words in order to see the meaning which they cover, arrive with unanimity at the precise, or at what seem the precise, resolutions, on the question of religious teaching in State schools, as though the stubbornest of facts would fall beneath the breath of a confident affirmation, as the walls of Jericho fell before the blast of the rams' horns.

Why cannot we have the Bible read and taught in public elementary schools? Why must this country, commonly supposed to be a religious country, and deeply tinctured with Puritanic feelings and prejudices, exclude from its school curriculum, the book which, above all others, contains the records upon which its spiritual faith is founded? Is it not monstrous that we should thus discredit the literature that we most profess to

revere? Can any more extravagant example be found in history of the fire of devotion being extinguished by polemical heat, or of the Christianity of the heart being over-ridden by the sectarianism of the head? This is the sort of censure for ever being fulminated against—whom? Against the disbelievers of the Bible? Not at all. Against Jews who accept only the Old Testament Scriptures? No. Against Roman Catholics who reject the authorised English translation? Not by any means. The wonder, and therefore the condemnation, are excited and incurred by a totally different class of people. The parents or guardians of the children who will hereafter be compelled to receive their education at a rate-aided school, are not to be found, in the proportion of one in a hundred, among the objectors to the daily reading or teaching of the Bible therein. For themselves they may be, and mostly are, supremely careless about religion, but they have a sort of desire that their offspring should reap such advantage, if any advantage there be, as it can confer upon those who are instructed in its truths.

Where, then, is the real difficulty, and who are they that feel it? If it be not among the men and women whose children are concerned, or chiefly so, why should there be any difficulty whatever? Why not proceed to legislate on the question in harmony with what is understood to be the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the people? Why not? The Vice-President of the Committee of Council could give some significant reply to the question by this time, we suspect. If interrogated, he might tell the world, perhaps with unfeigned astonishment, perhaps with uncontrollable disgust, that the main obstacle to the institution of Bible lessons in public elementary schools is presented by those religious communities which profess to value the teaching of that sacred book most highly. But whence this result, which every one must admit to be a strange one? There must be something to account for the unexpected opposition coming from this quarter. Not a few Methodists, almost the whole of the Nonconforming sects in Wales, a large minority of English Dissenters, highly as they prize the Bible, heartily as they revere it, constantly as they are accused of treating it idolatrously, earnestly as they teach it to their own children at home, willing as they are, at some considerable self-denial, to impart some knowledge of it to the children of the poor in their Sunday-schools, are yet doubtful whether or not it may be safely entrusted to the State schoolmaster, for exposition in the day-school. They love the book, but they would not have it used by authority as a weapon of proselytism. Why not? They have had some experience of what comes out of such a use of it in such a sphere of influence—and it is that experience—long, varied, and almost uniformly consistent—which bids them pause before assenting to the free use of the Bible in rate-supported schools.

Before wonder is expressed at the fact, might it not be as well to search for the probable cause of it? There are two things which, in the conditions of existing times, can no more coalesce, than water and oil can unite in the same vessel. We cannot have public elementary education unsectarianly religious, and maintain an exclusive Church Establishment at the same time. Mr. Forster and those who think with

him, regard the religious organisation of the people by the law of the land as proper, as most completely in unison with the genius of Christ's Gospel, as an arrangement inseparable from a true conception of the relation subsisting between a nation and God. Very well. We do not find fault with him for cherishing that conception, but we say it utterly disqualifies him from appreciating "the religious difficulty" in a national scheme of education. Why, the clergy of the Establishment, the articles, the creeds and the formularies of which are prescribed for them by an Act of Parliament, and enforced upon them by the Courts of Law, are bound by the most stringent obligations—to say nothing of the most influential motives of disposition and interest—to proselyte by all and every means that come within their reach, to the utmost extent of their power. And they have always recognised their obligation. Their proselytising zeal has been abundantly displayed "in season and out of season, in good report and in evil report." The State clothes them with special authority, does them special reverence, gives them special maintenance, that they may proselyte. Why are they to be blamed for conforming to the conditions of what, without disrespect, we may call their contract with it? Where they meddle in State schools they will, and they ought to, meddle denominationally. And it must be confessed that unless they meddle, the work of education, so far as it leans upon voluntary exertion and liberality, seldom assumes a flourishing appearance.

This is the real difficulty in the way of a national education, namely, the Established Church. Until the ecclesiastical policy of England and Wales is assimilated to that which is now applicable to Ireland, we shall never have a grand, comprehensive, homogeneous plan of school instruction in this country. Very few persons, perhaps, would object to Bible teaching in all public elementary schools, if there were no legally-authorized persons to turn it to account in magnifying their own exclusive position, and in proselyting the children of the poor to their way of thinking. No conferences can charm aside this standing impediment to a free religious education of the poor throughout this kingdom. No charitable nor uncharitable expressions of opinion can alter this one insoluble fact. Whilst we continue to have a State Church we shall be tied more or less closely to the denominational system in our schools—and so long as the denominational system is encouraged by law, statesmen must not be surprised if good men, godly men, and men of fervent zeal, see objections to the reading and teaching of even the Bible itself in our publicly maintained educational institutions.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

It is clear that Mr. Gladstone will have some difficulty in dealing with the Irish Universities question. A section of the Irish people seem to be confident of securing legislation in the denominational direction. The *Dublin Evening Post*, a Whig organ, says the matter is certain to be settled in substantial conformity to the wishes of the Irish people—which means the wishes of Roman Catholic priests. It is held that, supposing there to be any alternative between the disestablishment of Trinity College and the establishment of a Catholic University, this alternative is one which would not be accepted. It is, that the Senate should be represented according to denominations, which would give

forty-five Catholics to twelve Protestants. This remark shows how deeply the sectarian feeling has been cut into the habits of thought of the Irish people. In an undenominational university in England—such as London University—it never occurs to any one to inquire concerning the Ecclesiastical connections of the members of the Senate. Such connections are altogether ignored—as much in fact as they are in law. The question as a whole having been discussed in our columns last week, we need not now recur to it. But it is quite clear that, if the Government should ultimately decide in favour of an undenominational system, it will be obliged to do so against the expressed wishes of a large number of its supporters. The principal members of the Irish Roman Catholic laity have made a declaration protesting against the unsectarian system. In considering Mr. Gladstone's position such facts as these must be taken into account. No doubt he will act rightly when he acts; but his course must be viewed with patience—and, need we add, with trust?

The question of the next Census will come up in the present Session of Parliament. Ten years ago, as may be remembered, it was proposed to take a Census of the religious belief of the people. The Nonconformists successfully objected to such an inquisitorial inquiry, and Mr. Baines moved as an amendment that the plan adopted in taking the Ecclesiastical Census of 1851 should be repeated. This was objected to by Churchmen, and, as a result, no Ecclesiastical Census whatever was taken. In anticipation of the Census of next year, Mr. Rennie has read a paper at a meeting of the Church Institution, in which he said that the result of the last Census was very unfair to Churchmen; by which, of course, he meant not unfair, but unfavourable. He then proceeded to give some figures to illustrate the powers of the various ecclesiastical bodies. He considered that in the last half-century upwards of seventy-five millions of money had been raised for Church purposes. This sum was estimated to have been divided thus:—Church buildings and restorations, 25,000,000£; schools, 21,000,000£; endowments, 30,000,000£; sites, parsonages, and other things, bringing up the total to about 80,000,000£. In the same period the Dissenting community had spent 15,000,000£ in building places of worship, or about the same amount spent by the Church since 1820. About one-and-a-half millions were paid by Dissenters to their ministers; or one-third more than that annually paid by the Church. The worth of these figures, conscientious as no doubt they are, may be gathered from the fact that the "one and a half millions paid by Dissenters to their ministers" should have been nearly double—which is the ordinary estimate. Somebody suggested, towards the close of the meeting, that if the Government would not undertake a formal Ecclesiastical Census, the bishops might organise one. The bishops!

The "Sites for Places of Worship and Schools" Bill was read a second time last Wednesday, without a division. It is doing but bare justice to Mr. Osborne Morgan to say that he stated the case in support of this measure in a manner which precluded any effectual reply. Mr. Richard was able to support him with illustrations from Wales, quite sufficient in number and character to make out a case in favour of some measure or other of the nature of that before the House. The hon. member for Merthyr touched, of course, upon delicate ground, when he remarked that the rights of property were sacred, but that the rights of conscience were paramount. Strange to say, however, that, in a Parliament which is often described as being a Parliament of landholders, this sentiment was not at all unfavourably received. When the Home Secretary expressed his agreement with the compulsory clauses of the Bill as regards schools, but recommended permissive power only as regards churches, it was evident that the principle of the measure was conceded. Mr. Horsman drove it home with a hard hit after his earlier style of Parliamentary oratory, and as an ultimate result it seems probable that the grievance complained of may be remedied. If it be not remedied by law, there can be little question that the debate of last Wednesday will so operate as to bring about a still healthier mode of remedy—that is, by the operation of public sentiment. The persons who have brought in this measure would be the last to persist in it if they could be convinced that it was not absolutely necessary in order to justice. They would prefer to do without law, and would be glad to receive satisfactory assurance that it was not needful to have recourse to it.

It may be considered, we suppose, to be a satisfactory sign that the Committee of the National Society has at last agreed to recommend the universal adoption of the Conscience Clause. The public, however, have a grave charge to bring against this

Society. It has been solely through its influence that the "religious difficulty" in education was not settled years ago. It has always been the great obstructive power. It is about sixteen years since the Government, through the Privy Council Committee on Education, entered into a correspondence with the National Society's Committee upon this subject, urging the adoption of a Conscience Clause. The National Society's Committee, at that time, flatly refused to have anything to do with Conscience Clauses of any kind. The Government unfortunately succumbed, and the religious difficulty was thrown over to our own times. The intolerance of the National Society has, however, not told in favour of the Church, or of Church pretensions. All intolerance is short-sighted, and the Church has simply "gained a loss" by the result of this correspondence. It is now impossible to go back even to the point of 1854, where the National Society now, sixteen years too late, takes its stand. It is of no use moralising upon these events. History never has taught Churchmen, and apparently never will teach them.

THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

On Friday evening last the London Young Men's Committee held an open conference at the Public Hall, Walthamstow. The chair was taken by Mr. Ebenezer Clarke, who in his introductory address proposed three questions for consideration to the young men present—first, what was the cause of the fearful persecutions of Dissenters in the earlier periods of the history of the Church; second, what was the cause of the infliction of those pains and penalties from which they had continuously suffered to the present time; and third, what is the cause of all the difficulties in the way of settling on a solid basis that great work in which the people now are earnestly engaged—a complete and equitable system of national and unsectarian education? He believed that in every case it would be found that the existence of a Church Establishment was, and is, the only cause; and, if so, it became their duty to assist that great Society with which it had been his privilege to be connected from the day of its establishment, and which he had no doubt would finally succeed in liberating the Church from the bondage of State patronage and control. (Cheers.)

The chairman then called on the Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., LL.B., whose admirable paper on "The Union of Church and State, viewed in the Light of Present Circumstances," elicited the frequent and unanimous applause of the assembly.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Revs. W. Dooling, of Buckhurst-hill; W. H. Hooper, of Walthamstow; B. Beddow, of Wanstead; and Messrs. J. Firth Bottomley, E. Unwin, James Spicer, jun., and T. P. Bacon, and concluded with the usual votes of thanks to the chairman.

The last Young Men's Conference of the season, which will be duly announced, will be held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and the subject will be introduced by Mr. Carvell Williams.

THE ROMAN COUNCIL.

It is telegraphed that M. de Banneville has left Paris for Rome with a note to the Council, but its presentation will probably be deferred.

The second part of the scheme *De Fide* was not put to the vote in the Ecumenical Council on the 22nd inst., as expected. This, says a letter from Rome, was owing to the changed attitude of the Vatican since the sitting of the 22nd, which has not only taught forbearance to the Cardinal Legates and discretion to the majority, but even moderated the zeal of the Commission for Dogma. Thus, while the Opposition is represented as contemptible, the Commission has withdrawn from the second part of the scheme, as from the first, all the expressions to which the malcontent speakers objected, and, consequently, the clauses take such an altered form that they have to be discussed anew.

The *Mémorial Diplomatique* is cautioned by its correspondent at Rome against a rumour current in that city to the effect that the majority of the Fathers of the Council have determined to proclaim by acclamation the Infallibility of the Pope at the public sitting of the Council, to be held on Easter Monday, under the presidency of the Holy Father. The representatives of foreign powers officially accredited to the Holy See are always invited to be present at the public sittings of the Council. The rumour referred to has obtained such consistency in Rome that the greater number of diplomatic agents have declared beforehand that they will not attend on Easter Monday. The correspondent of the *Mémorial* admits that a certain number of prelates belonging to the majority in the Council had really avowed an intention of putting an end to the controversies respecting the opportuneness of a declaration of infallibility by proclaiming the principle by acclamation; but the Pope, when made acquainted with this intention, placed his formal veto upon it, being unwilling that so important a question should be decided by a surprise.

Father Newman has written a remarkable letter to Dr. Ullathorne. He expresses the "fear and dismay" with which many of the faithful in the Roman fold are now looking at the doings of their shepherds. Dr. Newman sees in the proposed declaration of Papal Infallibility a great calamity for his Church. Not that he personally feels any difficulty, but that "some of the truest minds are driven one way and

another, and do not know where to rest their feet," and that he looks with anxiety at the prospect of having to defend decisions which may not be difficult to his own private judgment, but may be most difficult to maintain logically in the face of historical facts. Dr. Newman sees, what all the world outside the Roman priesthood also sees, that the declaration of Papal Infallibility will give new interest to all the scandals of Papal history, and add a new difficulty to the rising controversy with doubt within the fold and with free-thought outside it. One of the great misfortunes arising out of the doings of the Council is, he says, "the blight which is falling upon the multitude of Anglican Ritualists." The Ritualists—at least their leaders—"may themselves," Dr. Newman thinks, "never become Catholics," yet they have been leavening England "with principles and sentiments tending towards their ultimate absorption into the Catholic Church." The declaration of Papal Infallibility will be a heavy blow to these allies, and Dr. Newman, who has seen in their progress one element of hope for the future, can only pray the early doctors of the Church "to avert the great calamity."

The *North German Gazette* states that the letters from Rome which have appeared in the *Augsburg Gazette* are about to be published in a collected form by a Leipzig firm. Great efforts have been made by the Papal police to discover the writer, but hitherto without effect.

It is said the Russian Government has resolved to prevent the publication of all decrees of the Council that are likely to cause dissension among the different sects in the empire, or to excite discontent or ill-will against the Government. In this category are comprehended the dogma of Papal Infallibility and the Syllabus.

The Irish bishops intend to take advantage of the approaching Easter vestries to issue a uniform scheme for the collection of a sustentation fund.

The Irish Church Commissioners, Viscount Monck, Mr. Justice Lawson, and Mr. Hamilton, were engaged on Monday in hearing appeals under the Disestablishment Act.

The Rev. Brewin Grant, who has just been received into the Church of England, will shortly be ordained by the Archbishop of York.

In consequence of indisposition, the Bishop of London is recommended to abstain from business, and to leave London for at least a fortnight.

It is reported in the diocese of Exeter, says a High-Church paper, that the Rev. Charles Voysey, on his resigning Healaugh, will be presented to a valuable Cornish living by a very Broad-Church layman.

THE GREEK CHURCH.—Archbishop Lycurgus, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaks in the most glowing terms of his reception in England, which he considers was offered to the whole Orthodox Eastern Church in his person. He will, on his arrival at Constantinople, announce to the Ecumenical Patriarch, to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and to all the prelates of the East, the many things pleasing and acceptable to God that he has seen and heard in this country, and for the time to come he will never cease labouring to bring about the harmony of the Churches.

THE RITUALISTS AND THE BISHOPS.—The *Church Review*, a Ritualistic paper, says:—"We understand that in the event of any fresh ecclesiastical prosecutions being instituted against any member of the High-Church party, several laymen have resolved that the flagrant breaches of the rubrics committed by certain of the bishops shall no longer be allowed to pass unnoticed; it is felt that there is no reason why the same measure of justice which is meted to the poor incumbent should not be dealt out to the wealthy prelate. It is stated, on good authority, that the last move of the Bishop of London against the Ritualists does not meet with the sympathy of his episcopal brethren, but very much the reverse."

THE IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.—A League has been formed at Belfast to maintain non-sectarian education in Ireland; to promote measures for the further application and development of the non-sectarian principle; to oppose any change in the existing national system interfering with that principle; to remove any anomalies that may have crept into the operation of the system inconsistent with that principle; to raise the status of the teachers, and to improve the quality of education in national schools. The committee, in their programme of opinions, state that the growth of the national school system since it was established by the Earl of Derby in 1832, proves that it is well suited to the condition of Ireland.

SINGULAR MOVEMENT AMONGST AMERICAN ROMAN CATHOLICS.—The New Orleans *Christian Advocate* publishes in full the constitution of an American Independent Catholic Church, as issued by forty-seven regular American Catholic Priests. The most salient points about it are that the Pope is not recognised as supreme, but only as *primus inter pares*; that confession and celibacy, though good and excellent in themselves, are not obligatory; that no monastic vow shall be made for over five years, though it may be repeated *ad libitum*; and that the effort be made to "harmonise, as far as possible, with all Christian denominations, especially with the Catholics of the old rite and the members of the Episcopal Church," with whom they are at one, except in some "few insignificant rites." The remaining articles are mainly devoted to checking the extreme power of bishops over the priesthood and the laity. —*New York Independent*.

THE ROMAN CATHOLICS AND MR. NEWDEGATE'S MOTION.—The Duke of Norfolk presided at a meeting of Roman Catholics on Friday afternoon, at Stafford House, Piccadilly, for considering what

course should be pursued in consequence of Mr. Newdegate's motion. A large and influential number of persons were present. The Earl of Denbigh, Lord Howard of Glossop, Sir Charles Clifford, Sir Charles Douglas, and the Hon. W. North, were the principal speakers. Resolutions strongly condemning Mr. Newdegate's motion were carried unanimously, and a committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the meeting. Active steps are being taken by the Roman Catholic clergy and laity of the metropolis to convene an aggregate meeting of their co-religionists, to be held the week after Easter in St. James's Hall, to protest against the inspection of conventual and monastic institutions. Preliminary meetings have already been held in various parts of the metropolis. The Duke of Norfolk will, it is said, be asked to preside, and it is expected that Cardinal Cullen will be in London the day of the meeting, and attend it.

THE CITY CHURCHES.—On Friday afternoon a conference was held between the Fellows of Sion College and several members of Parliament and others respecting the bill to be introduced into the House of Commons for a reform of the ecclesiastical and parochial charities of the City of London. The Rev. H. I. Cummins presided. Mr. A. Johnstone, M.P., gave a lengthy exposition of the leading provisions of the bill. In the course of his remarks he stated that the funds left at the disposal of the commission proposed to be constituted under the bill would be divided into two classes—ecclesiastical and charitable. The former would be devoted to purposes strictly connected with the Church, and every regard would be paid to vested interests. The charitable portion of the funds would be appropriated solely to educational purposes, and would be applicable, first, to middle-class education for the children of poor City clerks and others; and secondly, to industrial schools and reformatories. He also stated that portions of the sites of the churches would be given up for highway improvement purposes where necessary, and that in the sale of the churches to be suppressed regard would be had to the preservation of edifices of historical or architectural interest. Sir Charles E. Trevelyan pointed out that the resident population of the City parishes were rapidly on the decrease, and after an allusion to the high value of land in the City, commented on the present condition of things as totally indefensible, either from an economic or a religious point of view. The removal of this scandal was urgent, and the bill was calculated to effect this purpose, at the same time that by the method it prescribed of dealing with the property, it secured to the Church of England the funds to be realised. Mr. Hankey, M.P., expressed his approval of the bill, and complained that the present system of doling out small pittance to the poor was calculated to pauperise instead of benefiting them. Several clergymen followed in the same strain, while some of the subsequent speakers objected strongly to the proposal of alienating the funds from the poor for the benefit of middle-class members of society. The conference lasted for two and a half hours, and at the close it was resolved to hold another meeting in a few weeks.

Religious and Denominational News.

WEST RIDING ASSOCIATION.

The fiftieth anniversary of the West Riding Home Missionary Society and Congregational Union was commenced on Monday evening, April 4th, at Huddersfield, by a devotional service in Hillhouse Congregational Church. The annual conference of the West Riding Congregational Union was held in the Highfield Chapel, the Rev. David Loxton presiding. There was a large attendance of representatives.

The CHAIRMAN delivered an address on the prospects of ecclesiastical institutions in this country, and the changes in their own system which coming events might render expedient or necessary. After some preliminary observations, he said he should be unfaithful to his own convictions if he did not say a few words on the subject of national education. He was opposed to national education. He objected to the application of national funds and influence in support of one sect, and of one class of opinions in opposition to the sect to which he belonged, and to the opinions which he held. So far, his objection was a sectarian one, and the force of this sectarian objection was admitted publicly, and attempts were being made to embody that admission into the plan for national education which was at present before Parliament—attempts which he feared would prove to be abortive; so that they would perhaps have the mortification of finding that, through deserting their old position of opposition to all Government interference with education, they had been made, partly, the means of establishing a new State Church, which would flood the country with the rancour of religious controversy year after year, and perhaps be more injurious to the interests of religion than the old State Church had ever been. (Hear, hear.) His chief objection, however, to national education had always been that it was an undue extension of the powers of legislation. He objected to it because it allowed the despotism of majorities, and was opposed to that individualism the development of which was the great end of social institutions and of the very existence of man. He objected to it because it was an absorbing into the sphere of law and force of the fields of voluntary benevolence. After some further remarks, the chairman spoke of the disestablishment of the Irish Church and what might come out of it. The disestablishment of the Irish Church was the commencement of a new era

for England, and it was their duty as Independents to understand that new era and to prepare themselves for it. That the disestablishment of the English Church would follow that of Ireland in the course of a generation was anticipated by men of all classes, by bishops and rectors, as well as by infidels and Dissenters. (Laughter.) The clergymen were preparing themselves for it, and the great question for Independents to consider was what form that disestablishment would take when it came? A united Church body with elements so heterogeneous was impossible, but it seemed to him that the Government ought to hand over the ecclesiastical edifices to the congregations at present occupying them, with liberty to use them for the worship of God, adopting what form of Church government and discipline they might please for the present, but without power to bind posterity or to hand over the ecclesiastical property of the nation in perpetuity to any religious organisation. If these anticipations were realised, the Church of England would rise into the noblest, freest, and most apostolical Congregationalism in the whole world. (Laughter.) Great changes, he considered, must be made in the Congregational system, in order that Independents might take the place they were entitled to in the Congregationalism of the future. At the risk of being thought rash and even heretical, he would say that there were two changes which must be made; first, they must abolish the chapel trust-deeds, and second, put an end to all dogmatic tests to church-membership, admitting every one who had so much reverence for the character of Christ, and so much concern for religion as to be willing to attend and support His ordinances.

Thanks were then given to the chairman for his address, and in a short discussion which followed, and in which the Rev. E. Mellor, Alderman Law (Bradford), and the Rev. Dr. Fraser took part, exception was taken to some of the arguments used by Mr. Loxton in his address, particularly those referring to the education question and dogmatic theology.

A paper was then read on "Congregational Councils," by the Rev. J. BROWN (Barnsley), and a motion was passed expressing the desirability of preventing division and the adoption of the principle of arbitration, and remitting to the executive committee the question of considering whether any or what practical steps should be taken towards realising the end desired; the report to be presented at the next meeting of the Union.

The Rev. A. RUSSELL (Bradford) presented the report of the West Riding Chapel Building Society. The amount expended on grants during the last four years had been upwards of 5,000*l.*; and when the various edifices were completed, the whole would probably be upwards of 30,000*l.* Mr. W. H. CONYERS read the treasurer's statement, which showed that at the present time there was a small debit balance of 10*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Mr. J. W. BAINES read a report upon the state of mission work in the West Riding, and the spiritual destitution existing among the poorer classes. The Rev. W. THOMAS brought forward the education question, and moved that a petition be presented expressing pleasure at the prospect of an early settlement of the education question, but protesting against that part of the bill which gave the local boards the power of determining what kind of religion should be taught in schools supported by the taxes of the people. Mr. JAMES T. HAIGH seconded the motion, remarking that he believed Mr. Forster had been sincerely anxious to do all he could to satisfy the country, but he confessed the bill anything but satisfied him. The hour for adjournment having now arrived, the petition was adopted without further discussion.

A meeting was held in the evening, presided over by Mr. Alderman Law. There was a good attendance. The annual report, which was read by the Rev. J. H. Morgan, stated that during the year the clear increase in church-membership had been 164; the Sunday-schools had increased by 317; and the amount disbursed for the preaching of the Gospel was 3,868*l.* 19*s.*, of which sum 1,442*l.* 10*s.* was furnished by the society. Resolutions were passed adopting the report, recommending the society to the continued liberality of the Churches of the West Riding, and approving of the effort now being made to raise the ordinary income of the Union to at least 20,000*l.* per annum. Thanks were given to the general and district treasurers and secretaries, who were reappointed; and the appointment of the Executive Council was agreed to.

On Friday the sitting of the Conference was resumed in the Ramsden-street Chapel, Huddersfield. The general committee met to investigate the state of the beneficiary churches and preaching-rooms, and to vote grants in aid. After some formal business had been gone through, a motion, made by the Rev. J. H. Morgan, Leeds, was passed, conferring upon the Executive Committee a directionary power to admit, after the holding of the district meeting, which takes place about a month before the annual meeting, a brother to the Union, provided he produces satisfactory certificates from the association with which he had been previously identified.—An invitation from the churches of Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton, to hold the next anniversary in that locality, was accepted; and it was resolved to request the Rev. W. Thomas, of Leeds, to be the chairman of the Union for the next year.—Mr. Byles then presented a report on behalf of the Finance Committee, who were sorry to report that they had not succeeded in raising the income of the Home Missionary Society to 2,000*l.* per annum. Out of 132 churches contributing in the riding, only forty-three had any subscription lists; but the committee did not intend to rest or be satisfied until their work had been satisfactorily completed. The report was adopted on the motion of the Rev. J. H. Morgan.—The Rev. Bryan Dale introduced the subject of Church Finance, and moved

that Christian beneficence would be more faithfully fulfilled if each person would set apart for religious and charitable purposes a fixed portion of his income, and that the efficiency of the churches would be more greatly promoted by improved methods of finance, especially by the adoption of a plan of weekly offerings.—Mr. Josh. Boothroyd (Bradford), seconded the motion, which gave rise to some discussion, Mr. Law (Bradford), deprecating the idea that they were to restrict themselves to one-tenth of their incomes, and another speaker urging the necessity of teaching children to give to the society and useful objects generally. The resolution was then carried, and the delegates proceeded to transact the business belonging chiefly to the Home Missionary Society. The making of grants to various places which required aid, occupied the remainder of the sitting, and the amount so distributed was 1,600*l.* In the afternoon, about 300 persons partook of dinner in the school-room, the Rev. D. Loxton presiding.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT EXETER.

The new Congregational church on East Southernhay, one of the suburbs of Exeter, was opened for public worship on Wednesday last. It is erected to meet the wants of the congregation which assembled at Castle-street Chapel, of which the Rev. David Hewitt has been the pastor for more than twenty years. The work was commenced about two years ago, the memorial stone being set on the 25th of June, 1868, by Alfred Rooker, Esq., of Plymouth, who was present on Wednesday to hail the completion of the work. The first estimate was for 7,000*l.*, but it is expected that altogether 9,000*l.* will be required to cover the whole cost. "Not only (says the *Western Times*) will the whole structure be a very welcome addition to the architectural works of the city, but its style well accords with the character of antiquity everywhere observable, and the slender lofty spire—the first in any Nonconforming place of worship in Exeter—will mark out the church to the eye all the country round." The ground plan will accommodate 585 adults, exclusive of platform and choir galleries, which it is computed would seat about 60 more. The galleries will accommodate 462 adults, so that altogether the church may be reckoned to seat about 1,100 people. The free seats are in the gallery. There is, besides, a very fine organ on a platform behind the pulpit, costing 400*l.*, for which there is a distinct fund.

At the opening service on Wednesday morning the new edifice was well filled. The pastor having offered a brief prayer and given out a hymn, the Rev. H. W. Williams, Wesleyan, superintendent of the Exeter circuit, read a passage of Scripture and prayed, and the Rev. M. Charlton also took part in the preliminary service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, chairman of the Congregational Union, whose discourse was founded on the 14th chapter of St. John's Gospel, and at the 23rd verse—"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." In conclusion, the rev. gentleman expressed his gratification at the great success of the work, and hoped they would complete it by responding liberally to the collection. The sum collected amounted to 694*l.*, and after the close of the service a cheque for another 100*l.* was handed to the preacher. The concluding prayer was offered by the Rev. F. E. Anthony.

The dinner took place at the Royal Public Rooms, and was attended by nearly 250 guests from all parts of the county. There were five tables running the whole length of the room, all of which were laden with good things provided by Mr. J. Mureh, of Broadgate, whose catering was much appreciated. Mr. E. Glyde, Esq., presided. The chairman, in his opening speech, adverted to forty-two years since when the public meeting of Nonconformists was held, and at which his father presided to commemorate the repeal of the Test Corporation Act. (Hear.) Mr. A. Rooker followed. He said that a local newspaper, speaking of that beautiful Church and all its form, beauty, and its symbols, if it must be so, said, "Just contrast this with the Puritanism of the past." But Puritanism had ceased, and to use their own language, the *raison d'être* was gone; there was no longer Puritanism, simply because those outward signs and symbols had changed. The heart of Puritanism never lay in such outward forms as these. These very Puritans in olden times—of which the paper spoke—were men who had worshipped God under the broad canopy of heaven; they had worshipped God in His own Temple, and they had no objection to the glory and brightness of such a Temple as God had prepared for them. They worshipped God anywhere, but their feeling was that they had no care for these outward things, and they did not regard them as signs and symbols of a higher outward worship; they took these things as they came, and they accepted them, and one of their wisest and noblest members said, "He who disdained not to lay in a manger, disdained not to be preached in a barn." (Applause.) And now the Congregationalists were quite as earnest in saying, "Let there be no regard to form and ritualism." (Hear, hear.) If they had any faith in their principles, it was because they believed they maintained doctrinal truth in its purity and simplicity, and the congregational system which they professed secured freedom of worship and freedom of Government, and tended to the progress of truth and benefit of those with whom they were more immediately brought in contact. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Mr. W. Carter, treasurer, said that the building proper had cost 6,214*l.* 10*s.*, and the contributions

received up to that morning had reduced the debt to 2,585*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* Addresses were delivered by the Rev. C. Wilson and Professor Charlton, of Western College, Mr. Hodge, and Mr. Head. Rev. D. Hewitt then briefly addressed the meeting, expressing his great gratitude at the result of their labours, and his earnest hope that the work would prosper. In the evening the Rev. R. W. Dale again preached to a very large congregation, his text being from St. Luke, vii. chap., 28th verse:—"For I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." The total amount of both collections was 761*l.*

Sir Francis Crossley, besides the gifts we mentioned last week, has given 10,000*l.* as the basis of a fund for the widows of Congregational ministers.

The Rev. John Compston, of Barnsley, has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church, York-road, Leeds, and is expected to enter upon his ministerial duties on the 1st of May.

The Rev. W. H. Perkins, M.A., now of Hinckley, has accepted a very cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of Bootle Baptist Chapel, lately vacated by the Rev. R. H. Roberts, B.A., now of Cornwall-road, London.

Mr. Gordon, of Darlington, who has been preaching at Trinity-road Chapel, Halifax, has accepted a most cordial and unanimous invitation to undertake the charge for three months, with a view to the pastorate, and commences the engagement on the 24th inst.

Mr. J. Lewis Pearce, of New College, has accepted a unanimous and cordial invitation to minister to the congregation in Burdett-road Congregational Church, Stepney, lately gathered under the fostering care of the church in Stepney Meeting, and will enter on his stated labours on the first Sunday in June.

The Rev. E. Price, of Coverdale Chapel, Limehouse, visited the students of Hackney College on the evening of Friday, the 8th inst., and addressed them upon the subject of the Christian minister as a "Man of God"; afterwards conversing with them upon topics of general interest connected with their work.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The thirteenth annual meeting of the St. Pancras Auxiliary was held on Friday evening last, in the Vestry-hall, King's-road, St. Pancras-road, near King's Cross. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., M.P.; and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. J. Cunningham Geikie, minister of Islington Chapel; Rev. Samuel Manning; Rev. George Scott, of Bethnal-green; Rev. Henry A. Stern, one of the Abyssinian captives; and Mr. John Macgregor, M.A., hon. secretary of the parent society. The report, which was read by Mr. G. M. Turpin, gave a cheering account of the work of the auxiliary during the year.

REVIVAL MOVEMENT IN AMERICA.—A great revival work appears to be going on throughout the United States. One of the New York religious newspapers, writing on the 10th ult., states that at the Fulton-street prayer-meeting one of the speakers said:—"In some of the greatest cities of our land, there are at the present time the greatest revivals. Also in our large towns and villages God is pouring out His Spirit, and a spirit of grace and supplication is awakened in the hearts of Christians. In some large villages more than 200 have been added to a single church, as in Rondout more than 250 have been received as the fruits of the revival beginning with the work of prayer."

THE PROPOSED UNION OF CHURCHES IN SCOTLAND.—At a meeting of the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh, held on Monday, April 4th, it was resolved, by 39 to 25, "to overture the General Assembly to send the Union Committee's report formally to Presbyteries, in order that, having in view the information therein contained, they may be prepared to form an opinion on the question whether it be not right and expedient for the negotiating Churches to unite upon the standards, with the allowance on the subject of the power of the magistrate at present sanctioned by the several Churches; it being always understood that the further question is reserved, whether such a union, if in itself right and expedient, can as yet be effected with due regard to the maintenance of unity among the members of the negotiating Churches generally."

RESIGNATION OF AN INDEPENDENT MINISTER.—The Rev. M. Macfie, F.R.G.S., has resigned his office as pastor of the Congregational Church, Moseley-road, Birmingham, and has intimated his intention to withdraw from the work of the ministry. The rev. gentleman is reported to have assigned impaired health as the cause of the step he proposes to take. He attributed the failure of his health to the restraint that had for some two years been put upon his pulpit utterances by a certain influential revivalist party in the congregation who took him to task for not always preaching their favourite dogmas. He believed in a Gospel larger than theirs, and wanted to be allowed to "declare the whole counsel of God," but found it impossible in consequence of the fetters their creed put upon him. He said he never meant to connect himself after leaving Moseley with any existing sect, but preferred to be a Christian at large, loving all good and sincere men, delighting in whatever was useful in the 'sects, and eschewing what was evil.—*Birmingham Post.*

RELIGIOUS DESTITUTION IN GLASGOW.—A pamphlet by the Rev. James Johnstone on this subject brings out some startling points. He endeavours, by a series of elaborate calculations, to prove that, irrespective of the number of Roman Catholics, which he sets down as 100,000, there are within the city of

Glasgow and its immediate suburbs 130,000 souls "who are habitually neglecting God's ordinances." There are in Glasgow 416,000 nominal Protestants to account for, of whom he estimates that 208,000 ought to be attendants in the churches. Of the 208,000, only 128,500 are regular attendants, leaving 79,500 who might, but do not, attend any church. This number he holds as representing an equal number of "young, aged, and sick, or others necessarily absent," and by doubling it he obtains 159,000 as the number unconnected with any church; but a deduction is made of 22,000 as cared for by mission agencies, leaving 137,000 unconnected with any "outward means of grace." He proceeds further to show that the number of the religiously destitute is increasing at the rate of more than 2,000 a year.

BOLTON.—MAUDSLEY-STREET NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.—The opening services in connection with this handsome and spacious place of worship were brought to a close on Thursday last by an admirable lecture on "Church Music," by Alfred Barnes, Esq., J.P., of Farnworth. Sermons had been previously preached by the Revs. Henry Allon, R. W. Dale, M.A.; Joshua C. Harrison, J. Baldwin Brown, B.A.; and Charles Garrett. A service for young people was also conducted by Mr. John Ashworth, of Rochdale. At the opening tea-meeting, Thomas Barnes, Esq., late M.P. for the borough, presided, and addresses were delivered by Henry Lee, Esq., the Rev. Robert Best (the pastor), and various ministers. About fifty ministers of various denominations were present at the opening services. The collections amounted to over 900*l.* The chapel is a splendid building of the Italian style, with 1,200 sittings. It has cost, exclusive of land, over 7,000*l.*, towards which nearly 6,000*l.* is now collected, without aid from any society.

FINSBURY CHAPEL.—The usual anniversary in connection with this place of worship was celebrated last week under circumstances of much interest. The Rev. A. McAulane has just completed the eighth year of his ministry, and has wonderfully succeeded in filling that large City chapel with a steady, earnest, working congregation. On Sunday last the place was filled to overflowing. On Monday evening a very large company assembled to tea, and subsequently the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. De Kewer Williams, Rev. Charles Stovel, Rev. J. H. Wilson, Rev. W. Grigsby, and Rev. R. H. Lovell. The Rev. James Cohen, the rector of Whitechapel, also took part in the meeting. He said he had a personal reason for taking an interest in Finsbury Chapel, for it was a sermon preached by the Rev. Alexander Fletcher that led his own wife to serious concern for the things of eternity. An Act of Parliament prevented him exchanging pulpits with his friend Mr. McAulane, but he had invited him to preach in his large schoolroom, while he himself should conduct the devotional service. That was his reply to the impudent assertion of some newspaper writers that the idea of there being such a thing as a common Christianity must be abandoned. The Earl of Shaftesbury expressed his desire to take part in manifesting that union of heart and soul which belongs to all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Between Ritualism, which was naked, shameless Popery, and the stealthy progress of infidel principles, these were times of great danger. He cared not whether it was in a church or chapel; every place where the people could be brought together to be thus addressed was sanctified by the end and purpose for which they were brought together. His lordship took a gloomy view of the prospects of religion unless the Bible was read in the common schools of the country; to obtain that he was willing to surrender the teaching of the Church Catechism. Mr. McAulane himself said his experience at Finsbury Chapel was that a congregation could be obtained in the heart of this great city, and no congregation could be obtained and held together except by the simple, earnest, faithful preaching of the glorious Gospel.

A HINDOO PREACHER IN LONDON.—There has been lately a good deal of interest excited in certain circles by the visit to this country of the Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, chief of the Bramo Somaj sect in India. Our readers are doubtless aware that this sect has now existed the greater part of this century. Its original founder died about forty years ago, and Keshub is now its head. It is increasing gradually but surely, and though numbering but a small proportion compared with the Christianised Hindoos, it possesses a vitality and distinct life of its own, which promises for its future increase. Besides effecting very important social reforms, such as abolishing infant marriages and polygamy, educating and altering the position of women, &c., the followers of the Bramo Somaj, freeing themselves from the trammels of Hindoo idolatry, seized at once the idea of the One Supreme Being to be worshipped, and are now disciples of the purest school of Theism. It was in illustration of the one dogma of his sect, the belief in One Eternal Infinite God, that the Baboo delivered on Sunday a most earnest sermon, at the Rev. J. Martineau's chapel, Little Portland-street, choosing for his text the words, "In Him we live, and move, and have our being." His delivery was excellent, as also his flow of pure English. Many of his hearers had expected an enlarged account of his mission, and perhaps were disappointed at his silence concerning it. This feeling of disappointment was also shared by those who, rendered critical by their weekly enjoyment of masterly and poetical eloquence in that place, thought the Baboo wanting in gifts of oratory; but none can deny that his language was well chosen, earnest, and telling, and, for a foreigner, more than surprisingly good. The impressiveness with which he dwelt on

the necessity for a constant, ever-existing belief in the presence of God, was very convincing. He dilated at great length on the effects of possessing a heartfelt real belief in this Divine presence, urging that it would act as a school of discipline for the soul. With the All-seeing Eye upon him, how can man sin? With the sheltering presence of the Divine Father, how can man despair in times of sorest trial? God created the universe, not as a watchmaker, who makes a watch and lays it aside: He created it, He pervades it, by His will does it exist. The Baboo merely alluded to India by saying that physical distance could not prevent the souls of believers in the Supreme Being meeting in spirit before His Throne.—*The Echo.*

Correspondence.

THE SUNDAY-CLOSING MOVEMENT— OPEN-AIR MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLIS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Mr. Rylands will, on the 15th June, move for the second reading of his Bill to prohibit the Sunday liquor traffic. In the metropolis and throughout England petitions to Parliament in its favour are being signed. A co-operative effort for an open-air meeting in each metropolitan borough has been entered upon with an earnestness that indicates success. A circular from the central association and its London auxiliary has been issued containing the following inquiries:—

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLIS.

1. What is the best time, and where is the best place for a meeting in your borough? 2. Will the friends of the Sunday Closing Movement in your locality, make special efforts to promote the success of the meeting? 3. What speakers, accustomed to address large audiences in the open air, will kindly consent to take part in the meeting? 4. What number of petitions, with ruled sheets, shall I send you? 5. Can you promise or obtain a subscription for advertising the meeting? &c.

Canvassing.—St. Pancras parish was canvassed for Mr. Somes' Sunday Closing Bill. The results were for Sunday closing, 26,541; against 19,014; neutral, 7,766. The canvass of Clerkenwell parish has just been entered upon. In every parish in London there is a large majority for Sunday closing. Our friends can greatly aid the cause by canvassing districts. For canvassing papers and instructions apply to Mr. Mathews. The canvass of workshops is of great importance.

Petitions.—We are anxious to pour in a stream of petitions into the House of Commons. Petitions and ruled sheets supplied by Mr. Mathews, free. Forward all petitions before June 15, the time for the second reading of the Bill.

Deputations.—In each borough a deputation should wait on the members of Parliament. Will our friends kindly prepare for this?

Legislative bodies are always affected by the popular sentiment of the place where they meet. Hence the value of an expression of the metropolitan feeling on this question. The ministers, Sunday-school teachers, and other friends of the cause, have an invaluable opportunity of expressing the prevailing opinion. Will they not improve it? and thus greatly aid in removing the gigantic evil of intemperance by which the Sabbath is now desecrated?

Yours obediently,

EDWARD MATHEWS, M.A.,

Travelling Secretary of the Central Association.
London Office, 14, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street,
April 11, 1870.

LORD DERBY'S WILL.—The will of the late Earl of Derby was proved on Saturday by his eldest son, the present Earl, the sole executor. The personality was sworn under 250,000*l.* His lordship has bequeathed to his countless an immediate legacy of 3,000*l.* and an annuity of 3,000*l.* in addition to a like annuity under settlement, and closes the bequest to her ladyship in these words, "to whom, under God's providence, I have been indebted for more than thirty-nine years (then in 1865) of much domestic happiness and uninterrupted harmony." He devises to his eldest son the manor of Knowsley, with all his estates in Lancaster, Chester, Westmoreland, York, and Middlesex. To his second son, the Hon. Frederick Arthur Stanley, he leaves his estates in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, and elsewhere in Ireland, with the option of taking, within six months, the sum of 125,000*l.* in lieu thereof. There are several other legacies to friends and servants.

MR. MURPHY AT WOOLWICH.—Mr. Murphy, the violent lecturer against the Confessional, &c., has been very roughly treated in the course of his series of lectures. There has been a nightly gathering of roughs outside the hall, making extra police precautions necessary. Stones and brickbats have been thrown through the windows. Many persons have been injured. On his way home Mr. Murphy is escorted by mounted police. Several persons have been arrested, and fined or committed to prison. The troops of the garrison are forbidden to attend. On Friday Mr. Murphy preached twice—in the afternoon upon the doctrine of salvation, and at night on remission of sin. The congregations were large and respectable, but there were numerous interruptions, and several persons had to be forcibly ejected. Mr. Murphy declared his intention of "batting with Popery through the length and breadth of the land, the blood of his martyred father, slaughtered in the streets for the faith, calling for vengeance." After each service he was escorted home by the police.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday the House sat for only a short time, and transacted no business of general interest.

On Friday Lord De Grey and Ripon introduced the measure for the amendment of the Medical Act; the High Court of Judicature and Appellate Jurisdiction Bills were committed *pro forma*; Lord Chelmsford induced the Government to promise the appointment of a commission to inquire into the fees exacted from the solicitors of Dublin by the authorities of the King's Inns; and the Earl of Lerrin obtained some papers relating to the state of Ireland. Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes to seven for the Easter holidays.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SITES FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.

At the day sitting on Wednesday, Mr. O. MORGAN, in moving the second reading of this bill, said its object was to facilitate the acquisition of sites for places of worship and schools. No doubt he should be met with the observation that the area of the grievances of which he complained was very limited, and he was ready to admit that the cases of actual grievance were exceptional. But how much of their legislation was founded on exceptional cases? What was the Irish Land Bill but a piece of exceptional legislation? He would call the attention of the House to a few instances of undoubted grievance which seemed to call for the interference of the Legislature.

In his own county, in 1866, in a parish small at first, but which had gradually increased, there was a Dissenting chapel which as originally built was sufficient for the wants of the community; but these had outgrown the accommodation, and land was required to enlarge the chapel. A memorial was prepared and presented to the landlord, stating that all his tenants required was a little bit of land to enlarge the chapel on either side, or they offered to convert the chapel into the minister's house and build a new chapel. Their request, however, was peremptorily refused. They did not get the land, but they succeeded in obtaining from another party a site about a mile from where they wanted it, and they had to pull down both chapel and minister's house, the building materials being of no more use to them than if they had been cast into the sea. He thought that a very wanton exercise of the rights of property. There was another case of refusal, by a man of the highest liberality, the reason for which he could not understand. In a district which had sprung up with a constantly increasing population, a school site was wanted. There were several National Schools in the locality, but no British School. Application was made for a site. The landlord said he would put it in a district which was already served by National Schools. The parties considered that would be of little or no use to them. They pointed out three sites, any one of which they would be very glad to get; but the answer they received was that none of those sites would be given, because they were too near the National School and in view of the parsonage. From that day to the present no site had been granted. In a third case, he had some difficulty in translating the answer into anything like presentable phraseology. It was to this effect—that sooner than sell or give land for a site the owner would see the memorialists relegated to that locality to which very High Churchmen were periodically in the habit of consigning such of their fellow-men as were unfortunate enough not to be able to fathom the mysteries of the Athanasian Creed. (A laugh.) He knew of another case in which a grant had been: but the parties who remained tenants-at-will to the landlord gave their votes with the risk of confiscation hanging over their heads. Even in London he believed there was great difficulty in obtaining sites either for places of worship or schools, most of the property at the West-end being in the hands of large landowners whose leases contained restrictive covenants to that effect. Only the other day he received a letter from a clergyman in Holborn approving this bill, and stating that he had the greatest difficulty in obtaining a site for a school, and was compelled to resort to a disused tenement. There was a covenant by the lessee of a landed property of this nature, "That he would not use the premises, or any part thereof, for the purpose of a school or seminary, or for any trade or business of dealer in horse-flesh, cats'-meat, dogs'-meat, slaughterer, melter of tallow, or any other offensive business whatsoever, or suffer anything to be done on the premises that may be or grow to be a nuisance or disturbance to the said lessor."

Experience showed that a compulsory power of taking land for the site of schools was necessary; but the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Forster) in his bill on this subject expressly excluded himself from this, which was the only power worth having, and without which the bill would in many cases be a dead letter. Nothing was more unjust than to impose on a neighbourhood an obligation, and, on the other hand, to take away from the community the power of fulfilling it. He had been urged to divide the bill and restrict it to schools, but both schools and places of worship were of public utility, and it could not be called a Dissenting bill, for it applied to churches as well as chapels. The clauses enabled limited owners to sell land for the purposes of the Act, and he proposed that the Enclosure Commissioners rather than the Home Secretary or the Charity Commissioners should be a tribunal to judge as to the propriety of any application made under the Act. A memorial must be addressed to them, setting forth the object for which the site was required, and signed by at least fifty persons resident within four miles of the proposed site; and the Commissioners, if they thought it, might then authorise the memorialists to put in

force the compulsory powers of the Lands Clauses Act. He proposed to confine the site to an acre of land, which was the area mentioned in the School Sites Act, and the bill gave all reasonable security to landowners against an improper use of the proposed powers. If the bill became law, he believed it would hardly ever be resorted to, but it would not, therefore, be mere waste paper. It was from the refusal of small concessions like this that great and dangerous agitations took their rise. (Hear.) Reject this measure, and the demand for it, which was now little more than a whisper, would, in his country at least, deepen into a bitter and fanatical cry. The history of England was a history of timely concession; and he called upon the House not to let it be said that they, succeeding to the accumulated experience of centuries, so far forgot its lessons as to throw in their lot with the misguided men who, in the plenitude of their arrogance, had striven to dam back the torrent until it overwhelmed them, and had brought upon themselves and their country great calamities by resisting small reforms. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. G. GREGORY (East Sussex) moved the rejection of the bill as an unnecessary interference with the law of property.

Mr. RICHARD regretted that any necessity should exist for bringing in a measure like the present; but he acknowledged, with pleasure, that in respect to the grant of sites for places of worship a large number of landowners, both in England and Wales, were disposed to act, not only in a fair and just but in a generous spirit towards their Nonconformist fellow-countrymen. (Hear, hear.) He also believed that with regard to some of the impediments in the way of obtaining sites, it was not owing to the will, but to the want of legal power on the part of the landowners that they were not removed. On the other hand, there were unhappily landlords—a small minority—inspired by a different spirit, and they discouraged, because they belonged to a different religious body, those who endeavoured to promote the spiritual good of others. In 1865 and 1866 a great deal of evidence was given before the select committee presided over by the right hon. gentleman the member for Droitwich, showing the difficulty experienced in obtaining sites for schools, and there existed (although the House might not believe it) a strong feeling in country parts against establishing what was called liberal or unsectarian schools. They might talk of the rights of property, but he asked was it one of the rights of property to consign the population of a district to ignorance? Not unfrequently persons building schools were unable to obtain leases of the sites where they were erected, and sometimes an unfair advantage was taken of this circumstance in order to coerce votes at an election. (Hear, hear.) He was therefore tempted to ask whether tampering with the rights of conscience formed part of the rights of property? He wished to call attention to the hardship of the case with regard to Wales, where it could not be said that the Church of England adequately occupied the ground, and provided all the necessary means of religious instruction. It appeared by the religious census of 1861 that Church of England accommodation was provided for only twenty-five per cent. of the population; and under these circumstances he asked whether the House would approve that miserable dog-and-manger policy which threw obstacles in the way of those who were willing to supply the means of religious worship for the vast majority of the population in that Principality? (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to say a word against the rights of property, but in these days it became the owners of property to exercise their rights meekly, for otherwise an extensive landowner might at his arbitrary caprice proscribe in a large district every form of worship but his own, and that was a species of persecution now discarded by every State in Europe. The Legislature of this country had recognised the principle of religious liberty and religious equality, and the question was whether a proprietor of land ought to be permitted to annul the legislation of the country. He admitted that the rights of property were sacred, but he maintained that the rights of conscience were paramount and supreme. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HARDY would regret if any one should treat this as a question of religious difference, and the hon. member who had just sat down forgot that the bill, while providing facilities for Dissenters in obtaining sites, also provided the same facilities for members of the Church of England. He was willing to admit that, with respect to chapels, the Dissenters should be put on the same footing as the Church of England under the Church Building Act, and that limited owners should have the same facilities for granting sites for Dissenting chapels as they now had for granting sites for churches. He wished that the House and the Government would accept that suggestion without being tied down to agree to the grant of compulsory powers, which had not been required in the case either of Scotland or Ireland; and it seemed unreasonable for the House to be called on, without some strong case of necessity being established, to give more in the present instance than had been found to answer in the two parts of the kingdom he had mentioned. (Hear, hear.) There was a public opinion growing in the country which would prevent the recurrence of any such difficulties as the hon. member stated had been experienced in one or two cases.

Mr. BRUCE, without giving his assent to every part of the bill, was glad he could find enough in it to enable him to accede to the second reading. (Hear, hear.) As far as it concerned the question of sites for schools, it was intended by the Government to give those compulsory powers wherever local boards should be established, but as the Government had not yet laid that provision on the table, he thought it would

be unfair to oppose the bill of the hon. member of that head. With regard to the suggestion that the powers of limited owners should be enlarged, so as to enable them voluntarily to grant sites for Dissenting chapels, he would state a case which would show the propriety of some provision of that nature. A noble lord was applied to by a Wesleyan body for the grant of land whereon to build a chapel, and the noble lord, though willing to give the site, yet, being tenant for life, was unable to do so, though, if the land had been wanted for a church or a school, he could have granted it. He thought that members on both sides of the House would agree that the statement of a case of that sort was sufficient to secure adhesion to the opinion that a change of law on that point was absolutely necessary. (Hear, hear.) As for the important part of the bill relating to the compulsory acquisition of land, it would be admitted on all hands that for such a provision a very strong case of necessity ought to be made out. (Hear, hear.)

The circumstances of the great secession of 800,000 persons from the Established Church of Scotland had been mentioned. That was a case of extreme necessity. Provision had to be made for the religious worship of a large portion of the population, strong passions had been excited, and the land was mostly in the hands of those who adhered to the Established Church of Scotland. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining sites for places of worship for the members of the Free Church, and a bill was introduced enabling them to obtain such sites. That bill went to a select committee, but in progress of time a great change came over the spirit of the owners of the property; and the select committee came to the resolution that there would be no necessity to make the proposed change in the law.

The hon. member for Merthyr Tydvil had frankly acknowledged that the landowners of this country in the great majority of instances were willing to grant sites for chapels, but also stated that there were occasions when land was refused for sites. If cases of that kind were widespread, that fact would justify the proposed important change in the law, but he must confess that he did not believe they existed to that extent which would afford sufficient ground for passing the bill with the compulsory powers. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member who introduced the bill rested his case on the fact that chapels were places of public utility, and that whenever a landlord refused a site there existed a reasonable ground for compelling the grant of one. Chapels, however, were not the only places of public utility. Hospitals, townhalls, and workhouses were also places of public utility, and yet landlords could not be compelled to furnish sites for them. (Hear, hear.) Under all the circumstances, he did not think the case for the bill as it stood had been fully made out; but he was happy to see that there was an earnest desire to deal with this question as far as regarded schools, and to put Dissenters in the same position as Churchmen with regard to the possession of sites; and he had, therefore, great pleasure in giving, with the safeguards and limitations he had mentioned, his adhesion on the part of the Government to the second reading of the bill.

Mr. HENLEY, understanding that the bill was to have all the compulsory powers taken out of it, regretted that it was not introduced without them, for he did not believe there was any one in the House who would not be glad to remove any disability so as to enable persons to do what they wished with their own property.

Mr. HINDS PALMER said that when he first gave the sanction of his name to the bill he stipulated that the compulsory powers should be accompanied with sufficient safeguards and guarantees against the improper exercise of them, and he could not help thinking, notwithstanding what had been said, that there were substantial guarantees in the bill against any improper exercise of compulsory powers. The reason for selecting the Enclosure Commissioners was that they constituted an impartial tribunal, uninfluenced by local considerations, who had been accustomed to investigations of this description. He could quite understand the disinclination of an owner to have a building put up in an inconvenient place where it would be an annoyance to him, and one clause of the bill was an express provision to guard against such a contingency, for it said that no order should authorise the "taking of all or any part of any dwelling-house, or the curtilage thereof, or of any park, garden, or pleasure-ground held or enjoyed therewith, or of any church, chapel," &c.; and in committee he should be prepared to give even greater protection, and to say that if the commissioners were satisfied it was impossible to put the Act in force without causing annoyance or injury to a proprietor, their sanction should not be given to the order asked for.

Mr. LIDDELL regarded the bill as an attack on the rights of property.

Sir J. HANMER demurred to those representations of the acts of Welsh landlords which had been made several times by the hon. member for Merthyr.

Lord JOHN MANNERS opposed the compulsory clauses of the bill on the general ground that every man, whether Churchman, Catholic, or Dissenter, was responsible for the management of his property in the way which seemed to him to be the best; and in illustration of this view he referred to the manufacturing establishment and town of Saltaire, which was in every respect worthy of commendation, and from which Sir Titus Salt excluded, as he had a right to do, churches and public-houses. He protested against any one finding fault with what Sir Titus Salt had done, and yet, under this bill, it would be possible for fifty persons to claim a site for a church at Saltaire, if Sir Titus Salt refused one.

Mr. HORSMAN said that Wales was in a worse

position than Ireland in this respect—the landowners belonged to one Church and the population to another, and the reason was the fault of the Church of England. One of the first votes he gave in the House was in favour of a proposition that no clergyman should be appointed to a living in Wales who did not understand the Welsh language; it was opposed by the Government of the day, headed by Lord John Russell and also by Sir R. Peel; but the combination of the front benches was beaten, and a rule was established which had been in operation ever since. But the consequence of the contrary rule previously observed was that Wales was a hotbed of Dissent, and although, as a Churchman, he regretted this, he would say it was impossible to exaggerate the obligations of all Christians to the Dissenters. They were active when the Church was idle, and he should like to ask what would have become of the populations of our great towns if the Dissenters had not penetrated into holes and corners the Church did not enter. If Churchmen might congratulate themselves on the increased zeal of their Church, they must yet in a more Christian spirit than formerly acknowledge Dissenters as fellow-workers in the same vineyard in which there was work for both to do in generous and Christian rivalry, instead of flying at each other's throats. The fact was, we must acknowledge Dissent had become an institution, not established by the law, but by something stronger than the law. For these reasons, if the hon. member felt that these compulsory powers were necessary, he should feel it his duty to support him.

Mr. NEWBROOK said it was clear that unless the House intended to sanction the compulsory powers they must vote against the second reading, and if they did so the division could not be a fair one, because hon. members believed the Home Secretary to represent the supreme direction which regulated the Ministerial side of the House. (Hear.) He, therefore, saw nothing for it but to vote against the motion for the second reading of the bill. (Hear, hear.) The right hon. gentleman the member for Liskeard admitted that there were such things as the rights of property, but contended that they existed in different countries under different conditions, and, being the creation of law, could be altered by the same power that gave them being. But in saying this the right hon. gentleman lost sight of the fact that in this country the rights of property were the foundation of the people's freedom, and promised support to the bill, which proceeded on the assumption that the Legislature was ready to delegate to the Copyhold Commissioners the power of defining what the rights of property really consisted in, without even reserving to itself the power to review the proceedings of the Commissioners. (Hear.) The bill was so loosely constructed that it might afford abundant means for the perpetration of abuses. Let the House take an instance from his own experience:—An active magistrate, Churchman, and politician gave great offence in his last-named capacity to a wealthy Quaker, who for a short time retorted by paying all the fines which the magistrate inflicted in the course of his duty. Finding this, however, a somewhat costly amusement, he bought a piece of land in the parish where the magistrate was the principal landowner, and, having built a chapel advertised for a congregation. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) The present bill would have enabled the Quaker to procure a more complete satisfaction, because had the whole parish belonged to the magistrate, he would still have been able to force two acres of his land from him. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BRUCE wished to say a few words in explanation of the repeated misconstructions that had been put upon his statement. Without doubt the main principle of the bill was compulsion as regarded the provision of schools and churches; but he only supported that principle so far as the schools were concerned, and opposed the compulsory provision of churches and chapels. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. PRASE was of opinion that in Wales a sufficient reason existed for altering the law in some such way as was proposed by the bill, but thought the Enclosure Commissioners a most awkward tribunal to decide whether a church should be built on the Dissenter's ground or a chapel upon the ground of a Churchman. (Hear, hear.) He should be sorry, however, to think that the state of things in Wales existed throughout the kingdom; indeed, he knew that it did not, for, in the Auckland district of the county of Durham—a division of which he had the honour to represent—once an essentially ecclesiastical county, the Dissenters had expended some 22,000*l.* in six years, and had experienced no real difficulty in securing sites for their chapels and schools. (Hear, hear.) As a Dissenter, he looked forward to the day when the Established Church would no longer be the established Church of this country, and when that day came he hoped all religious organisations would be left to fight out their battles on perfectly even terms.

Mr. BERNARD HORN could not conceive what could have induced Mr. Horsman to make his appearance in the unusual and not well-dressed part of Saul among the prophets. (Laughter.) It might be that the right hon. gentleman was uttering his high eloquence in order to bring it to the level of the phraseology usual in tea-parties, blanket clubs, and other select evening celebrations he would have to attend during the coming recess. (Laughter.) But if this was the only excuse, the speech was utterly inexcusable. (Hear, hear.) In the case of a church an endowment would have to be provided, at an outlay of at least 10,000*l.* But, on the other hand, a young man of promise, or of that self-opinion which went for promise, having an impression that he had a mission to preach the Gos-

pel, would get fifty signatures to a petition, and come down upon some landed proprietor and demand a piece of land. The land obtained, he would put up a building worth, perhaps, not more than 80*l.*, and in his first sermon he would, perhaps, incite another young man of promise to a similar proceeding. Thus split would follow split, and schism would be directly promoted by this measure. (Hear, hear.) Would Dissenters appreciate this fostering of insubordination among themselves? He believed the Act would be more damaging to Dissenters than to the Church, for the Dissenter was under no restraint, and new churches and new sects could be multiplied by him to any extent.

Mr. CANDLISH trusted the bill would be withdrawn if its compulsory powers were struck out in committee.

Mr. G. GREGORY, in consideration of the Government having promised to use its influence to convert the measure into a permissive bill, and procure the omission of the clauses relating to schools, which would be more properly dealt with in the Education Bill, desired to withdraw his amendment.

The amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

Lord ENFIELD, with the assent of the Attorney-General, obtained a second reading of his Juries Bill, on the understanding that it is to be referred to a select committee. Mr. YOUNG took advantage of the occasion to suggest the propriety of no longer requiring unanimous verdicts from juries.

Mr. DENMAN's bill for the further amendment of the law of evidence was passed through committee; but a second measure of his—the Summary Convictions Bill—was opposed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL. Its object was to give justices a discretionary power in small felonies to discharge juvenile offenders, convicted for the first time, on the payment of damages. Sir R. COLLIER objected to it that it legalised composition of felonies, and would destroy the distinction between crimes and civil wrongs. Mr. DENMAN withdrew the bill.

The Attorneys' and Solicitors' Remuneration Bill was considered in committee.

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN obtained leave to bring in a bill to protect the goods of lodgers against executions upon the property of the landlord; and the bill was read a first time.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

On Thursday, in reply to Mr. W. Egerton, Mr. BRUCE said that the bill to amend the Printworks and Bleachworks Acts was in course of preparation, but he was unable to give any positive promise as to the date of its introduction.

DEPORTATION OF SOUTH SEA NATIVES.

In reply to Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. CHILDERS said that the Under Secretary for the Colonies would lay upon the table before long additional papers with reference to the deportation of natives in the South Seas. Commodore Lambert had been directed to use the utmost vigilance in checking the slave trade character of the operations in the South Sea Islands, and on the 22nd of February was instructed to send a vessel to the Feejee and Friendly Islands, for the purpose of preventing the traffic in slaves. As to the case of the Daphne, the Secretary of State had approved of Commander Palmer's proceedings, and on Wednesday he (Mr. Childers) promoted that officer to the rank of captain, expressly to mark his sense of his conduct in the matter, and it was their intention to ask the Treasury that the expenses which Commander Palmer had had to pay should be refunded. (Hear, hear.)

EDUCATION PETITIONS.

In reply to Lord Montagu, Mr. O. FORSTER (chairman of the Petitions Committee) said that out of 2,459 petitions which had been presented, 149 were in favour of the Education Bill, three against the bill, and 2,104 praying for alterations. In order to meet the views of the noble lord and hon. members, the Committee of Public Petitions had agreed to classify the petitions as follows:—for the bill, against the bill, and for alterations in the bill. The last division would be further divided into petitions for the extension of the present denominational system, and petitions against any distinctive religious teaching.

UNIVERSITY TESTS.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL gave notice for the 25th of the present month to move in committee of the whole House for leave to bring in a bill to alter the law relating to religious tests in Universities. (Hear, hear.)

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

On going into committee on the Irish Land Bill, more than half an hour was consumed in a lively altercation as to the exact point at which Clause 3 was to be resumed. The CHAIRMAN held that the first few words of the "scale" had been agreed to with an amendment on Tuesday. This led to charges being levelled at the Government from both sides of something like a breach of faith, or at least a breach of an implied engagement that the scale should be commenced that night. The result of the misunderstanding was that gentlemen who had intended to fix the commencement of the scale at a higher or lower point were precluded from moving their amendments. This preliminary dispute disposed of, Mr. SYNAN moved to substitute ten for seven years' rent as the compensation for tenants of 10*l.* and under, and

Mr. GLADSTONE seized the occasion for explaining the latest, and, as he hinted, the last modifications which the Government proposed to make in this part of the bill. In the first place, the suspension of the freedom of contract would be limited to twenty years, and until Parliament should otherwise direct;

and the line at which the interference with contract would cease, he proposed, very reluctantly, to lower from 100*l.* a year to 50*l.* a year. In the next place, he proposed to insert in the equities clause words which would make it clear that the court in assessing damages for eviction might take into consideration the duration of the tenant's holding and the nature of his contract. Similarly, to supply the place of Clause 16, the equities clause would be amended, so that where a landlord had offered the tenant a *bond fide* lease of thirty-one years, the court might also take that into consideration. Finally, Mr. Gladstone discussed the new revised scale, contending, from a comparison of the proposals made by various authorities in and out of Parliament, that this was the fairest and most moderate of all. The difficulty, he pointed out, lay in the varying circumstances and needs of large and small holdings. In the small holdings the improvements which the tenants in most cases would prove, though valuable to them, would be of a very valueless character as against the landlord, and the compensation they would recover would mostly be for loss on eviction. The original scale, therefore, was sufficiently ample to meet their case; but on tenancies over 30*l.* the loss sustained would probably be mostly in connection with improvements, and in their case, therefore, the scale had been enlarged. But there would be added a proviso giving the smaller holder the option of proving for compensation for loss on eviction on the old scale, or for compensation for improvements on the lower scale.

Mr. HARDY and Sir ROUNDELL PALMER admitted that the alterations sketched out by Mr. Gladstone removed several objections; but Sir J. GRAY expressed himself extremely dissatisfied with these frequent changes of front, which made it utterly impossible to understand the bill; and Mr. DOWNING was so dispirited by the conduct of the Government that he doubted whether he should not drop all his amendments. After some remarks from Mr. KAVANAGH and Mr. O'REILLY, the Committee divided on Mr. SYNAN's amendment, and the term of seven years was confirmed by 245 to 50.

A proposal was made by Mr. BRODRICK to substitute "annual value" for "rent," but he did not press it. The amendments proposed by the Government in the scale were agreed to up to 50*l.*, and here Mr. W. FOWLER (Cambridge), interposed with an amendment intended to except all holdings above 50*l.* from the operation of the clause. He argued in support of it that the whole *raison d'être* of the bill was to assist and protect the small holders who could not take care of themselves. If it were carried beyond that point, it would be impossible to confine this interference with freedom of contract—which in a general way he strongly deprecated—to Ireland. As a matter of fact, he mentioned that the amendment would only exclude about 37,000 of the 680,000 Irish occupiers from the benefits of the clause.

The amendment was supported by Sir ROUNDELL PALMER, who argued that the practical reasons for the bill vanished at 50*l.*, and that tenants above that point had no claim to be relieved from the law of contract, and, indeed, required no such protection. Lord C. Hamilton, Dr. Ball, Mr. Corrance, Mr. Kavanagh, Mr. Price, Mr. Henley, and Mr. Read also supported the amendment.

On the other hand, it was urged by the Solicitor-General for Ireland, Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Brewer, and others, that this class of men required as much protection as others. Mr. SAMUELSON suggested that the maximum of compensation for these larger holders should be fixed at 250*l.*; and Lord St. LAWRENCE called attention to the case of the great graziers, who, he thought, ought not to receive this large compensation.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in the course of his reply, while intimating that the Government was ready to consider, indeed to accept, both of these latter suggestions, strenuously resisted the amendment, as involving the most serious consequences to the bill; in fact, he signified in no ambiguous terms that the Government would not accept it, and if it were carried would throw up the bill.

Mr. W. FOWLER considered it so important to put some limit to exceptional legislation, that he was not to be deterred by this intimation from pressing his amendment to a division. Sir ROUNDELL PALMER was not willing to take this responsibility, and, without abandoning all hope that some limit might yet be adopted in regard to retrospective tenancies, he advised the withdrawal of the amendment. Mr. GREGORY accepted the exemption of the grass farms as a sufficient limit, and on that account solely opposed the amendment.

When a division was challenged, Sir Roundell Palmer walked out of the House, and his example was followed by Sir R. Peel and others. These defections from the Ministerial ranks were loudly cheered by the Opposition. A division then took place with the following result:—

For Mr. Fowler's amendment	218
Against	250—32

The amendment was therefore negatived.

When Mr. GLYN received the paper for the purpose of announcing the numbers, there was a burst of cheering from the Ministerial benches; when the numbers were announced the Conservatives replied with a louder cheer; the Liberals answered with a third, and this cheering and counter cheering were continued for some time.

The Chairman was ordered to report progress, and the House resumed.

THE WINE AND BEERHOUSE ACT.

Sir H. SELWIN-IBRETON obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869.

It had been found that persons whose certificates had been refused because they had misconducted their houses were continuing to carry them on under cover of brewers' licences which the Excise could not refuse even in the absence of a certificate. He therefore proposed to extend this requirement to the brewers' licences, and to subject the houses to police inspection. In the next place, in a number of towns in the North licences for the sale of sweet wines had been taken out by persons who had been deprived of beer licences for misconduct; and he therefore proposed to extend police inspection to the houses of these wine-dealers, in order to check the irregularities which prevailed in them. Thirdly, the owners of beerhouses, on giving a tenant who had misconducted a house notice to quit, were prevented from transferring the licence from the out-going tenant to the incoming tenant by the former refusing to hand over the certificate which was necessary to complete the transfer. In many cases large sums were demanded for eviction, if he might use the term, from these ill-conducted houses, and it was attempted by the third clause of the bill to correct that evil. The penalty was frequently mitigated by magistrates to the most trifling amount, and therefore the limit below which the penalty should not be reduced would be raised by the measure he proposed to introduce. In many cases a beer licence was taken out together with a grocery licence, and it was found that circumstances led to some irregularity, and consequently it would be proposed that the beer licence should rule the hour for closing the House.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock.

On Friday, at the two o'clock sitting, Mr. ALLEN gave notice that on the 6th of May he will move that it is desirable that the British Museum and the National Gallery should be open to the public on week-day evenings.

Mr. BRUCE announced that he shall be unable to introduce the Licensing Bill before Easter, and spoke with some hesitation of the prospect of passing such a measure during the present session.

Mr. AYRTON informed Mr. Herbert that he is about to take some steps for the improvement of the Ladies' Gallery by the addition of a tea-room and retiring room.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

In committee the House resumed the consideration of Clause 3. At least an hour and a half was consumed in a virtual renewal of the previous night's debate on the expediency of exempting large holdings from the operation of the scale. It arose on an amendment by Mr. KAVANAGH to draw the line at 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ annual value, and it gave Lord Elcho the opportunity of animadverting on Sir Roundell Palmer's conduct in leaving the House without voting, after the strenuous support he had given Mr. Fowler's amendment. In defending himself, Sir Roundell PALMER repeated his fixed opinion that there ought to be a limit beyond which this exceptional legislation should not be carried; but though he would not personally assist in the violation of the rights of property, neither would he be a party to preventing the passing of the bill. The argument that the large tenants were able to take care of themselves, and that their case does not justify this interference with the ordinary law, was urged by Colonel Barttelot, Mr. Headlam, Lord Elcho, and Dr. Ball; while on the other hand, Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE, Mr. BAGWELL, and others repeated that they required protection as much as others. Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that this portion of the clause applied only to future tenancies, as to which, by a promised amendment in Clause 10, full liberty of contract was given over 50 $\frac{1}{2}$; and the question of existing tenancies, he suggested, might be dealt with at a subsequent stage. Mr. DISRAELI agreed with this, and upon their joint appeal Mr. KAVANAGH withdrew his amendment.

At this point Mr. SAMUELSON's amendment, limiting the amount of compensation in all cases to 250 $\frac{1}{2}$., was inserted in the clause, and the "scale" was completed by the addition of Mr. FORTESCUE's proviso giving the smaller tenants the option of going for loss for eviction on the higher scale, or for general improvements on the lower. The concluding words reserving compensation for "permanent buildings and reclamation of land" gave rise to some discussion. Mr. PELL and Mr. READ objected to joining the two together, and urged that there should be some definition of reclamation, and Lord Elcho suggested the insertion of a limit of twenty years. On this last point the Government intimated a willingness to consider it, and it was deferred to a later clause. An amendment to omit "reclamation of land" was negatived without a division.

The rest of the sitting was occupied by a discussion (also to some extent the repetition of a previous debate) on an amendment proposed by Mr. HEADLAM, providing that no tenant under a lease shall be exonerated from the duty of giving up peaceable possession of the demised land at the end of the term, and that a landlord resuming possession at the end of a lease shall not be deemed to be "disturbing" a tenant. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in opposing the amendment, admitted that the bill was exceptional, and could only be justified in this particular on that ground. Sir Roundell PALMER felt the injustice and hardship of interfering with leases as strongly as Mr. HEADLAM, but preferred to raise the point at a later portion of the clause, where he proposed to move that *bonâ fide* leases of fourteen years should exempt holdings from the clause. The amendment was supported by Mr. CORRANCE and Mr. BRUCE, and by Sir R. ANSTRUTHER, who foresaw that compensation for causeless eviction must in due time be extended to England and Scotland, and was ready as a Scotch landlord to face the contingency. Lord CLAUDE HAMILTON spoke in favour of it and against the bill generally in a very impatient House up to 7 o'clock.

The further progress of the bill was then adjourned, it was understood, until the 28th of April.

THE FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET.

When the House, or rather a couple of dozen of its members, reassembled at nine o'clock, Mr. SAMUDA called attention to the negotiations which are going on for the selection of a waterside foreign cattle market, and represented the impossibility of finding a suitable site on the south side of the river. His principal apprehension appeared to be lest the Privy Council should sanction the establishment of a market at Deadman's Dock, near Deptford, where he maintained that no adequate space could be found for the landing and proper accommodation of foreign cattle; and these objections were entirely shared by Sir H. SELWYN-IBBETSON. Mr. W. E. FORSTER admitted that a large market would be required to meet the requirements of the Act of Parliament and the needs of the trade, but at the same time he assured the House that he had no reason to believe that the City Corporation were insensible of this necessity, or would in any way endeavour to avoid their responsibilities in the matter. Mr. LOCKE defended the Deptford site on account of its proximity to the great tanneries in Southwark, to which the skins of all the animals would have to be transported; and Mr. A. JOHNSTON commended that at the Victoria Dock, on account of its connection with that "noble avenue" the Commercial-road.

A discussion, originated by Sir John Lubbock, took place on the report of the Commission on Military Education.

Mr. WHALLEY put a question to the Home-Secretary on the case of the convict Rutherford, which Mr. BRUCE declined to answer, as an unwarrantable interference with the grave and solemn duty in which he was now engaged in reference to this case.

THE FENIAN CONVICTS.

In answer to Mr. G. H. MOORE, who complained that the statement recently made by Mr. Gladstone as to the condition of the Fenian convict Burke was utterly contrary to truth, Mr. BRUCE said he was now engaged in appointing a Commission to inquire into the treatment of the Fenian prisoners, and he promised that Mr. Moore should have an opportunity of proving his case before it. The Commission will consist of two gentlemen from Ireland and two from England, to be presided over by some person of eminence.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and a vote of 2,323,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ on account of the Civil Service Estimates, to cover two months and a half, was agreed to.

DISFRANCHISEMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL brought in a bill to disfranchise Beverley and Bridgwater, and certain voters of Norwich. On the suggestion of Mr. S. HILL, he agreed to put the Norwich voters into a separate bill. Colonel KNOX wished Beverley and Bridgwater to be separated in like manner, and on the ATTORNEY-GENERAL declining, he moved the adjournment of the House, and was beaten by 157 to 17.

THE CONVENT COMMITTEE.

At half-past one, Mr. NEWDEGATE brought on his motion, that the committee he recently obtained on Monastic and Conventual Institutions be nominated by the Committee of Selection. Thereupon, Mr. COGAN moved that the order be discharged, in a long speech, in which he endeavoured to justify his course by precedents dating back as far as 1837, by the unexpected character of the division, and by the alarm and dissatisfaction which the proposed inquiry had created among the Roman Catholics. Sir JOHN SIMON seconded the motion, while Lord Elcho, in supporting the committee, disclaimed every motive of bigotry, and protested that if he were a Roman Catholic he should invite inquiry. Mr. MATTHEWS vehemently opposed the inquiry, as insulting to Roman Catholic feeling. Mr. NEWDEGATE supported his original motion, and Mr. SCOURFIELD expressed the aversion of the Committee of Selection to have this duty put upon them. From this point the debate degenerated into a squabble for adjournment more lively than usual. A motion made by Mr. PEASE at half-past two to adjourn the debate, which was supported by Mr. BRUCE, was beaten by 110 to 76. Ultimately a third motion to adjourn the debate was agreed to at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock.

On Monday a good deal of time was spent in considering the Metropolitan District Railway Bill. The stage was consideration of amendments, and Mr. CRAWFORD, objecting on behalf of the Corporation, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the City generally, to the abandonment of the Tower-hill branch, moved to defer the stage until after Easter. The point was debated for some time, but ultimately Mr. CRAWFORD consented to suspend his opposition until the third reading, on the understanding that in the interval the evidence taken before the Select Committee shall be printed and circulated among members.

In reply to Mr. W. H. SMITH, Mr. GLADSTONE said that if any building was to be made on the Crown land of the Thames Embankment, it would only be done after a vote had been taken in Parliament on the subject, so that there would be ample time for discussion.

In reply to Mr. Winn, Mr. BRUCE said that he proposed to introduce a Bill on the subject of Trades Unions during the present session.

THE BUDGET.

It was a quarter to six o'clock before the House got into Committee of Ways and Means, and

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to make the financial statement. Plunging at once without a single word of preface into a retrospect of last year's

finance, he reminded the committee that the estimated revenue for 1869-70 was 76,205,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., and the expenditure 68,233,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., leaving a surplus of 7,972,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., of which 4,800,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ was appropriated to the expenses of the Abyssinian War, and 2,940,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ to the reduction of taxation, leaving a net surplus of 442,000 $\frac{1}{2}$.. Leaving out of sight the anticipations of revenue contained in last year's Budget, the actual revenue belonging to the year exceeded the estimate by 1,819,000 $\frac{1}{2}$.. The only branches of revenue which had fallen short of the estimate were the Post Office and the Customs. The shortcomings in the Customs, occurring, as they had done, chiefly in tea, coffee, and sugar, he attributed to a mistaken expectation which had been entertained that he was about to adopt the "free breakfast table." The anticipations of revenue, so much criticised in the last Budget, Mr. Lowe said had more than answered his expectations. Licence-duties, income-tax, and house-tax, taken together, had produced more than a million over the estimate, and the licence-duties in particular had been so successful that it was proposed to extend the principle to other taxes—to the collection of the income-tax, for instance. The expenditure for the past year had been estimated at 68,408,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., but the actual expenditure had only been 67,564,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., there having been a saving in every department except the packet service and the interest of debt. The actual surplus was 7,870,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., of which 4,300,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ had been devoted to the expenses of the Abyssinian War, and 1,134,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ to the reduction of the floating debt. The whole cost of the Abyssinian War Mr. Lowe put at 8,800,000 $\frac{1}{2}$, and he mentioned also that 6,327,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ had been paid in the year for the telegraphs (leaving a balance of 422,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ unpaid). This had been done by creating Consols to the amount of 7,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ —4,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ of which the National Debt Commissioners had taken, while the rest had been so skilfully placed on the market that no one had ever been sensible of the operation. Before quitting the past he explained also what had been done in the way of reducing debt, and as a general result he stated that, notwithstanding the loans we had contracted for fortifications, telegraphs, and the Abyssinian War, we had paid off 38,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ of debt since 1857. Passing, then, to the future, Mr. Lowe thus stated the expenditure of the coming year:—

Interest on Debt	£26,650,000
Consolidated Fund Charges ..	1,829,000
Army	12,974,000
Navy	9,251,000
Civil Service	9,990,000
Revenue Departments	4,960,000
Packet Service	1,107,000
Telegraph Service	380,000

Total Expenditure £67,118,000

This was a net reduction of 1,713,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., and he entered into the particulars of each item to show how the reduction was brought about. The Civil Service alone showed no decrease, but this arose from the transfer of charges and certain "automatic" increases over which the Government had in reality no control. To meet this expenditure Mr. Lowe thus estimated the revenue for the year:—

Customs	£21,650,000
Excise	21,640,000
Stamps	8,700,000
Income-Tax	7,600,000
Taxes	2,850,000
Post-office	4,900,000
Telegraphs	675,000
Crown Lands	385,000
Miscellaneous	3,050,000

Total Revenue £71,450,000

This gave a disposable surplus for the year of 4,337,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., and he proposed to add to this surplus an amount of 150,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ by substituting for the present game certificate a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ licence to carry arms, in favour of which he argued at some length to the effect that it would discourage the growing custom of carrying firearms, and check poaching. Having thus obtained 4,487,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., Mr. Lowe discussed next the various suggestions which had been offered to him for the disposal of it. Disposing summarily, and in a humorous vein, of Mr. Candlish's suggestion that it should be applied to the reduction of the National Debt, he explained the details of a scheme which he proposed for extinguishing 7,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ of stock held by the savings-banks by turning them into annuities, terminable in 1885, which this year would cost 190,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., and would enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1885 to effect a remission of 3,376,000 $\frac{1}{2}$.. The malt duty came on next for consideration, and, after weighing well all the difficulties of the matter, he decided to leave it where it was, with this concession—that the farmers, with due precautions, would be allowed to steep their barley for feeding cattle. First among the remissions he intended to make he mentioned a number of small licence duties, such as the foot hawkers', card-makers', soapmakers', watchmakers' licences, amounting to over 20,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ in this year. The stamps on deeds, too, he intended to reduce, at a cost to this year's revenue of 60,000 $\frac{1}{2}$., besides a reduction of the duties on insurance against hail, on plate glass, &c., which he put at 1,000 $\frac{1}{2}$.. The impressed stamp on newspapers he proposed to abolish altogether, substituting for it a postage rate on newspapers of one halfpenny up to six ounces, and for other printed matter of a halfpenny for every two ounces, and every fraction of two ounces. The combined effect

of these two he put at 370,000*l.*, half of which only would come into the present year. The duty on railways he proposed to equalise, at a cost of 107,000*l.* After all these minor remissions, Mr. Lowe had still between three and four millions to dispose of; and he proceeded to discuss next the principles on which a large reduction should be made, laying it down that the true theory of taxation was to spread the burden as widely and as equally as possible. The practical conclusion he drew was against parting entirely with any single tax. In place of this he proposed to reduce the income-tax to 4*d.*, by which he would sacrifice 1,250,000*l.*, and to halve the sugar duties, which would cost 2,350,000*l.* The whole amount of remissions included in the Budget is 3,966,000*l.* which leaves a surplus of 331,000*l.* Mr. Lowe concluded his speech by moving the resolution relating to the sugar-duties, which provides that as to refined sugars the reduction shall not take effect for three weeks.

The usual desultory discussion followed the statement. Mr. WHITE complained, at length, that more had not been done to reduce the taxes specially pressing on the working men. Mr. BARING protested against the secret manner in which the stock for purchasing the telegraphs had been raised; Mr. CRAWFORD, on behalf of the sugar-refiners holding stocks, pressed for a short delay to enable them to compete with foreign merchants; and Colonel BARTOL expressed a hope that after sugar the turn of malt might come. Mr. POLLARD-URQUHART would have preferred to raise the income-tax, in order that some large consumers' tax might be swept away altogether. Mr. J. B. SMITH and Mr. BEACH argued in favour of a larger reduction of the National Debt. Mr. CANDLISH made some observations to the same effect; and Mr. LIDDELL and Mr. PEASE, in the interest of the mineral-carrying railways, objected to the alteration in the railway duties. Mr. W. FOWLER thought these duties ought to have been abolished altogether, and repeated his objections to the new mode of collecting the revenue, which he believed would in the long run be found very uneconomical. Mr. C. S. READ pointed out that the gun-tax would bear hard on the farmers, unless there were some exceptions for guns used to scare away birds. Mr. W. HUNT and Mr. SOLATER-BOOTH from the front Opposition bench canvassed the prominent points in the Budget without intimating any very decided opinion on them, except that the Terminable Annuity scheme was a clumsy device for extinguishing the debt.

After a brief reply from the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the resolutions necessary for carrying out the changes proposed in the Budget were agreed to.

The LORD ADVOCATE brought in a bill to amend and to assimilate in certain respects the laws of England and Scotland relating to game.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the state of the law affecting members of Parliament who have been reported guilty of corrupt practices by an Election Commission. The subject had been brought under the notice of the Government, he admitted, by recent cases, and by inquiries which had been put in reference to them. There were two or three members in the House now affected by the motion, and the inquiry would involve several questions which he indicated—whether they had obtained an indemnity against prosecution by the expiration of the statutory limitation—whether they had been heard in their own defence within the meaning of the statute, and whether it would be desirable to resort to the expedient of expulsion in such cases.

Mr. J. LOWTHER moved, as an amendment, that the committee be empowered to inquire into the operation of the Corrupt Practices Acts; and also into the complaints made against the conduct of certain Commissioners. He maintained that the inquiry suggested by the Prime Minister, as to the state of the law, was known to every attorney's clerk in the country, whereas the inquiry which he himself wished for would be absolutely necessary before Mr. Disraeli's Act of 1868 could be renewed. With regard to the latter part of his motion, Mr. Lowther animadverted severely on the conduct of the Commissioners, particularly the Bridgwater Commissioners.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied that the inquiry was necessary, as the Lord Chancellor, himself, and the Solicitor-General were of opinion that the state of the law was very doubtful. The Government, however, would not object to a separate committee to inquire into the operation of the Corrupt Practices Acts; but they could not consent to an inquiry into the conduct of the Commissioners, whose general ability and discretion the Attorney-General earnestly defended.

Mr. W. HUNT, though not holding the law to be so doubtful, advised Mr. Lowther to accept the offer of the Government, as did also Mr. PEMBERTON, and after some observations from Sir Roundell Palmer, Mr. S. HILL, and the Solicitor-General, Mr. Lowther withdrew his amendment, intimating that he would renew the first part of it. The committee was then agreed to, and the House adjourned at a quarter before two o'clock.

A RETORT.—At a recent trial, a witness was produced who had a very red nose; and one of the counsel, being desirous of putting him out of countenance, called out to him, after he was sworn, "Well, let's hear what you have to say with your copper nose." "Why, sir," said he, "by the oath I have taken, I would not exchange my copper nose for your brass face."

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

THE PETITION OF NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS.

The Central Nonconformist Committee, formed in Birmingham last month, has rendered essential service in eliciting the opinion of Nonconformist ministers in reference to the religious clauses of the Government Bill. An appeal was made (as we have already stated) to every Nonconformist minister in England and Wales to sign a memorial for presentation to Mr. Gladstone, and a petition to the House of Commons. The terms of these documents being identical, it will be sufficient to quote the latter:—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom, in Parliament assembled, the humble Petition of the undersigned Ministers of various Denominations of Protestant Nonconformists.

Sheweth—That your petitioners have seen with satisfaction that the attention of your honourable House has been called by Her Majesty's Government to the necessity of making more adequate provision for public education in England and Wales.

That your petitioners are deeply pained to discover that the bill introduced by Her Majesty's Government into your honourable House will, if it pass unamended, injuriously affect the religious liberties of large classes of her Majesty's subjects.

That your petitioners strongly protest against the proposal of the bill to give to local boards unrestricted power to determine the religious character of schools to be aided and supported by local rates. Your petitioners regard this proposal as a practical adoption of the unjust and irreligious principle of concurrent endowment, as establishing a new form of religious taxation not less objectionable than Church-rates, rendering the minority in every district liable to the payment of a rate for the support of whatever form of religious teaching the majority may approve, and thus giving occasion to sectarian conflicts which will be most injurious to the social harmony and religious well-being of the community.

That your petitioners further object to that clause of the bill which permits Her Majesty's inspectors to inquire into the religious instruction given in schools; and also to the power conferred upon local boards to enforce the attendance of children at denominational schools under a conscience clause of a wholly unsatisfactory kind.

That your petitioners therefore earnestly pray that these provisions in the bill may not be approved by your honourable House.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

A circular issued by Mr. R. W. Dale and Mr. H. W. Crosskey, hon. secs. to the Committee, gives the following information as to the signatures to the petition:—

Congregationalist	1,923
Baptist	1,674
Unitarian	264
Presbyterian	231
Wesleyan Methodist	1,598
Primitive Methodist	904
Methodist New Connexion	145
United Methodist Free Churches	297
Bible Christian	133
Other Denominations	131

Appended to the petition were the signatures of 5,173, as follow:—

Congregationalist	1,467
Baptist	1,674
Unitarian	202
Presbyterian	124
Wesleyan Methodist	878
Primitive Methodist	715
Methodist New Connexion	116
United Methodist Free Churches	267
Bible Christian	112
Other Denominations	33

It will be seen that more than one-half of the Wesleyan Methodist ministers have given their signatures. Even this large number does not fully represent the extent of the opposition to the Government measure, for there are many who sympathise with the protest and yet have not signed it because they deem it better to wait and see what action will be advised by the Conference Committee which is shortly to meet. While the Baptist, Independent, and Unitarian signatures represent rather more than seventy-five per cent. of all the ministers in the three denominations, the signatures from the younger branches of the Methodist family bear a still larger proportion to the total number of ministers. Of Primitive Methodist ministers seventy-nine per cent., of New Connexion Methodists eighty per cent., of Bible Christians eighty-four per cent., and of United Methodist Free Church ministers nearly ninety per cent., have sent in their names.

This petition was entrusted to Mr. Miall, who on Friday last, after consultation with the Speaker as to the latitude that would be allowed to him by the rules and usages of the House, presented it in due form. He called attention to it as one of great weight, both physically and morally. He detailed all the facts contained in the above sketch relating to the different denominations, the ministers of which had appended their signatures to the petition. He gave a full statement of the contents of the petition, expressing, for the most part in the language employed by the petitioners, the objections they entertained to several of the religious features of the

Elementary Education Bill, and he read out the prayer with which the petition concluded. The Speaker having put the question that "it lie on the table," Mr. Miall took up the petition, which was both heavy and bulky enough for one man to carry, and amid the cheers of the Liberal side of the House bore it down the gangway, and deposited it upon the floor by the table—the ordinary black bag in which petitions are put when they are brought up being too small to admit of it. The presentation appeared to make a deep impression upon the House, which, perhaps, has never before received a petition signed by so large a number of the religious teachers of England and Wales.

DEPUTATION TO MR. GLADSTONE.

On Monday a deputation waited upon Mr. Gladstone to present to him the protest (in substance the same as the Parliamentary petition) against the religious clauses of the Education Bill, and which has been signed by more than 5000 Nonconformist ministers. The terms of the protest were as under:—

We, the undersigned Nonconformist Ministers of England and Wales, regret that we are compelled, by a conviction of public duty, to protest against certain provisions in the Education Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Her Majesty's Government.

1. Against the power given to local boards to levy a rate for the support of schools in which they may determine that the religious teaching shall be denominational, under whatever conditions the denominational teaching may be given. We regard this as a form of concurrent endowment, and are sure that, as a rate for the support of schools where the doctrines of a sect will be taught, it will be resisted, and be the cause of strife more perilous than that formerly provoked by Church-rates.

2. Against the "Conscience Clause," which requires a Nonconformist British citizen to claim religious toleration in schools supported by national money. We believe it to be only an evasion of the religious difficulty; that in many cases it will be inoperative; and will, especially in rural districts, subject Nonconformists to grave injustice.

3. Against the permissive arrangement for religious inspection, which we believe will lead to the re-establishment of the very denominational inspection which the bill professes to remove.

The memorial of the Congregational Union, which was also presented, was of a similar character. The two documents were presented by the following deputation:—The Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., representing the Congregational Union; the Rev. Dr. Brock, President of the Baptist Union; the Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, Presbyterian; the Rev. W. Gaskell, M.A., Unitarian; the Rev. J. R. Hargreaves, Wesleyan; the Rev. George Lamb, Primitive Methodist; the Rev. Dr. Cooke, President of Methodist New Connexion; the Rev. J. Swan Withington, United Methodist Free Churches; and Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., President of Congregational Union; and Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Secretaries of the Central Nonconformist Committee. A statement of the views of Nonconformists was made by Mr. R. W. Dale, and a general conversation ensued, in which many of those present took part. Mr. Gladstone expressed his desire to understand exactly what were the views of Nonconformists with regard to the general question raised by the Education Bill, and the deputation was impressed with the feeling that Mr. Gladstone was anxious to act fairly and justly in meeting the views that had been explained to him.

MEETING AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

On Friday night a numerous attended public meeting of the supporters of the National Education Union and other friends of the religious education of the people was held in St. James's Hall. The Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., took the chair at eight o'clock, and was supported by the Duke of Northumberland, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Howard of Glossop, Lord Eustace Cecil, M.P., Earl Percy, M.P., Lord Sandon, M.P., Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Colonel Akroyd, M.P., Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P., Mr. Corrance, M.P., Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, M.P., Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Barry, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, who was loudly cheered on rising, said they were met on that important occasion in this 19th century, in this age of progress, in a period of civil and religious freedom, after so many conflicts and disputes on religious grounds, to support the cause of religion in the national education of the country, and to protest against the exclusion or discouragement of religious teaching in our schools. They were there to demand impartial justice, and to enforce those great principles of religious liberty for which they had so long and ardently contended. The necessity for a great measure of national education being on all sides admitted, Her Majesty's Government had brought in a bill which had been committed to the care of an able and upright man—Mr. Forster; and if he had been all-powerful to frame the measure there would have been no need for their gathering in that hall. But this was not so, and they were therefore asked to support those great principles which the right hon. gentleman had enunciated. It was not for that meeting to consider details. Their business was with the great principles involved in the question—whether the children of this country, under a system of national education, should or should not receive the Bible and religious teaching? (Hear, hear.) Now, the bill brought forward by the Government was not by any means all they wished or had a right to demand; but if it did not do all they could desire for religious teaching, at least it did not step over on the other side and exclude it from our national schools. The bill left the people to decide whether they would have religious teaching or not, and the responsibility of deciding must rest upon local bodies, and not fall with

its full weight upon the national shoulders. (Hear.) The "religious difficulty" was not, he believed, felt by the great mass of the people. The feeling throughout the country was with them. A hundred amendments had been proposed, all more or less coming towards the proposition they desired to carry, but all falling short of the mark. They must now make a very decided effort to carry their point, and secure the teaching of the Bible as an essential, and not as an extra. (Hear.) Religious teaching must be given within school hours. (Hear.) Let this be done, and they would grant as many conscience clauses and time-tables as their adversaries could possibly desire; but to relegate religious teaching to odds and ends of time would be an outrage upon the national feelings and a gross violation of religious liberty. If their opponents had their way, they would be called upon by public taxes and local rates to contribute to the foundation of schools from which the Word of God and all religious teaching would be excluded, but to which they were to be compelled to send their children, where the children would learn that the State had determined religion to be a secondary and by no means necessary part of education. (Cheers.)

Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE, M.P., proposed the first resolution, as follows:—

That in the opinion of this meeting any system of National Elementary Education which excludes religious teaching from schools or discourages it, is wholly unsatisfactory and unworthy of national support.

Mr. T. HUGHES, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. He said that he should be appearing before them under false colours if he did not state that he was a member of the Education League. He joined that organisation because it was the first that started in this country which put on its banner "National Education"—compulsory if necessary, rate-supported, and perfectly fair to all sects and denominations in this country. He still stood to those four principles, and it was because he did so that he was then before them. It never was a part of the programme of that society to exclude religious teaching. That issue had been raised since its formation by a very small minority of that society, composed, no doubt, of very able men, who advocated secular teaching. He believed that the country would emphatically declare against secular education. If they looked at the public schools of this country, from the highest in the land down to the ragged schools, they would find the element of religious teaching in all. Nothing could be more mischievous, as Dr. Arnold and others had shown, than to allow a boy to separate the idea of religion from his school work.

The Marquis of SALISBURY, who, on rising to propose the next resolution, was received with long-continued cheering, said he had to give the practical commentary to the theoretical propositions already laid before the meeting. Their duty lay in earnest action and steady determination to show by practical resolutions the feelings which had been enthusiastically expressed in that assembly. When a difference which seemed at times world-wide shrunk into insignificance it became necessary to ask the cause which brought them all together. Depend upon it, the foundations of their common faith were not lightly threatened when men, differing so widely, could meet together in response to the invitation of that association. There was no difference so wide between Christians as that which separated Christians and those who proposed that no Christianity should be taught in schools. They did not altogether like the Government measure, and if they had to frame an educational policy for themselves it would not probably be the same as that of the bill now before the House of Commons. They felt, however, that a desire such as had never before been expressed had arisen for a system of national education, and they felt bound to sink every difference which could, by any stretch of language, be called a minor point. When, however, they had made these concessions there arose a set of philosophers—not the Birmingham League—who said that their consciences were injured if any religious teaching at all was given to the children in rate-supported schools. Now, he would ask these gentlemen of exquisitely delicate conscience to remember that Christians had consciences as well as themselves. The vast mass of the working people believed that education without religion was not to be desired for their children. The philosophers to whom he referred proposed, however, to take their children, whether they would or no, to send them to school, to work them through the hours of the day, and to exclude from the education of their minds that one subject upon which their minds should dwell. If he took his neighbour's horse, and rode it for twelve hours a day, it might be said that the owner was not prevented from riding it afterwards. This was the whole question at issue between the supporters of religious education and the Secularists. Religion must either be taught or opposed. There was no neutrality in this matter. (Hear, hear.) Religious zeal was by far the most powerful agency in the promotion of education. This might be the offspring of a detestable superstition. He would not contest that point, but the fact remained that this religious zeal of the various Christian denominations had covered the land with churches and schools, and the question for practical politicians dealing with human motives was whether they would have this vast force against them or on their side. What the Union did was to recognise this craving for national education and yearning for religious instruction. It was incontestable that the active force of the opposition to this movement was hostility to religion, partly the reaction of former controversies, which had produced a feeling of anti-religious propaganda. The more influential and distinguished Nonconformists were on the side of the Union; but a small section, using their religious organisation for

political ends, had consented to play the part of cat-paw in this matter. (Cheers and interruption.) The crisis was one of uncommon danger, and one which called upon all Christians to join together in earnest and long-sustained defence of the great principles now at stake. (Much cheering.) The noble Marquis concluded by moving:—

That the following petition be signed by the chairman, on behalf of the meeting, for presentation to Parliament:—

That your petitioners view with great alarm the attempts now being made to introduce a purely secular system of elementary education, and to exclude the Bible and all definite religious teaching from primary schools.

That your petitioners are satisfied that exclusively secular teaching is opposed to the desires and convictions of the great bulk of the people of this country, who are in favour of Christian teaching for a Christian nation.

Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your Honourable House will adopt those principles of the Education Bill which provide for liberty of religious instruction in all public schools.

Mr. C. BUXTON, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said the one thing they sought was that where the parents desired education to be associated with religion the State should not step in to refuse them that boon. He was not himself opposed to some of those restrictions as to the time and manner of religious teaching which might seem necessary as a fair compromise between contending parties. It seems to him very important that the ministers of religion should not be driven out of the schools, while there could be no doubt that many educational reformers were bent upon expelling them.

Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS, M.P., and Mr. BERRSFORD HOPE, M.P., supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. GEORGE MOORE proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. W. H. SMITH, M.P., and carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks, and the proceedings terminated.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.

The following resolutions were agreed to at a meeting of the General Committee of the National Society, held on Wednesday, April 6:—1. That the committee of the society, with the view to a settlement of the education question on a religious basis, will not object to its schools submitting to section 3 of Clause 7, but they see grave objections to any system by which religious instruction shall be confined by a rigorous time-table to particular hours. 2. That all public elementary schools, whether denominational or otherwise, shall equally with those founded by the school boards be entitled to their full share in the school rates, provided they satisfy the requirements of the education departments, unless it can be provided that voluntary subscriptions should count as rates to approved schools. 3. That the action of manager under Clause 21 ought to be subject to the control, not only of the Education Department, but of others interested in the support of the school. 4. That new schools may at any time be built by the several religious bodies, aided by a grant from the Education Department, and be placed on the same footing as existing denominational schools.

MEETING OF METROPOLITAN SCHOOL-TEACHERS.

On Saturday afternoon a conference took place at the Westminster Palace Hotel, between a number of Liberal members of Parliament and a large body of school-teachers belonging to British Church and Wesleyan schools in the metropolis. Among the members of Parliament present were Mr. Dixon, Mr. Morley, Mr. Mundella, Mr. Whitwell, Lord F. Cavendish, Mr. Acland, Mr. Akroyd, Mr. Dent, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. McArthur, Mr. Pease, Mr. Kaye-Shuttleworth, and the Hon. F. Cowper-Temple. About 100 teachers were also present. Mr. Morley, M.P., who was voted to the chair, said that, having a deep conviction that religion was the only true basis of morality, and, therefore, the only guarantee for national virtue, he wished to see how he could secure the religious element, and make the religious mind superintend the education of the school by a reasonable amount of religious service, of reading the Bible, and, as he was prepared to contend, reasonable freedom to the teacher in explaining it. (Hear, hear.) Speaking as the result of twenty-five years' extensive experience in schools connected with the Homerton Training College, he had never found a person who objected to the Bible in the hands of an honest teacher. What people did object to was having their children tampered with to swell the numbers of this or that sect of religion. (Hear, hear.) He believed that all around that table were equally anxious to secure the really religious teaching of the people, though they were not yet able to see their way to the right method of doing it. They desired, therefore, to consult the practical workers in what he would almost call a blessed ministry rather than the mere profession of teaching, and to draw from them opinions which might strengthen their hands in dealing with the measure then before Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

The following questions were put to the teachers:—How far does the present system of Bible teaching in metropolitan schools prevent parents sending children to school? Should a time-table for religious instruction be adopted in schools? and, if so, in what way would it best work in harmony with due management of the school? Is it practicable to inculcate the moral precepts contained in the Bible used as a school book without making any reference to sectarian things, so that schools should remain utterly unsectarian? The teachers were unanimously of opinion that the present system of Bible teaching had not prevented parents from sending their children to school; and they were almost unanimous in opinion against the adoption of the time-table for religious instruction. It was urged that a particular time must be appropriated to religious

instruction. It would be best for teachers to consider the question, and set down in writing their opinions as to the best mode of working the time-table conscience clause. This suggestion was ultimately adopted, the decision of the meeting being practically, that while they do not see their way to confining religious teaching to the beginning or the end of school hours, they agreed that it was practicable to work the conscience clause in such a way that the period for such religious instruction should be so known and regulated that any children might be put to other lessons, while that was going on, if their parents desired. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. KAYE-SHUTTLEWORTH asked whether any schoolmaster present would be satisfied with merely reading the Bible without explanation, and would consider that religious education? (Unanimous cries of "No; it would be a farce.")

MR. BAINES ON THE RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTY.

Mr. Edward Baines, M.P., writes to the *Times* to express, as a Nonconformist, his hearty concurrence in the resolutions passed at the education meeting held at St. James's Hall on Friday evening, and also in the spirit of the meeting. Mr. Baines says that he is certain that any attempt to exclude by law from the elementary schools of England either the Bible or the unsectarian teaching of its essential truths, as adapted to the moral training of young children, would give the most violent shock to public feeling, and would produce an irresistible reaction. The problem to be solved by Parliament in an educational measure is, Mr. Baines adds, to combine protection for conscience with liberty of religious teaching; and the wise course for all the friends of education in the country is so to exert their influence as neither to discourage religion nor offend conscience. This was, he says, the aim of the framers of the Government bill; and, notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, he believes it to be the honest desire of the vast majority of the Nonconformists, as well as of Churchmen. "As an old Sunday-school teacher (he says), who has witnessed the great blessings resulting from that institution, I yet declare my strong opinion that the Sunday-school is of itself wholly inadequate to the religious training of the young. In the home, alas! too large a proportion of the children can receive no moral instruction, but rather examples of intemperance, profanity, godlessness, and vice." Mr. Baines trusts that Churchmen and Nonconformists will agree that the new schools to be supported by rates shall be undenominational Bible schools, and that they will also agree to an arrangement in all schools receiving public aid of any kind, which, while not encouraging absence from religious instruction, shall give effectual and easy protection to the consciences of parents.

PETITIONS FOR THE BILL AND FOR ALTERATIONS.

It appears from the thirteenth report of the House of Commons' Select Committee on Public Petitions, up to April 5, that the largest number of petitions on any one subject have reference to the Education question, there being 279 petitions, signed by 21,070 persons, in favour of an extension of the present system; 2,409 having 297,881 signatures, praying for alterations in the Elementary Education Bill; 163, with 5,737 signatures, in favour of the bill; and 3 petitions with 2,034 signatures against the bill.

CHINA AND HER MISSIONARIES.

III.

In my last communication I endeavoured to show in what light foreigners, foreign intercourse, and foreign improvements are regarded by the Chinese. It was stated that the people of China are peaceable, industrious, and harmless, and that we have no quarrel with them; that they are susceptible of good impressions, and would rejoice to enter into any relation with us that would bring to them some obvious benefit; that they would treat us kindly and respectfully if they thought that such a conduct would be agreeable to the authorities; and that the inspiring cause of the annoyances which they give us from time to time may be traced almost invariably to the well-known anti-foreign spirit and policy of their superiors. It was shown, too, that the official and literary classes hate most cordially all foreigners, whether they be ministers, consuls, merchants, or missionaries; that they dislike intensely our foreign notions, foreign schemes, foreign religions, and everything else that is foreign in us or about us; that hitherto they have never ceased to oppose the most determined resistance to all innovations, so that every concession yet made to Western diplomacy has been due to outside pressure; that, whilst they feel that some concessions must be made at present, in order to prevent another outburst of ferocity on the part of the barbarians, their animosity remains unabated, and their resolve to yield as little as possible is as fixed as ever; and that, if they had the power to drive us out, they would do so instantly, and not a foreigner would be allowed to domicile in the Flowery Land.

In corroboration of these statements, I might adduce many facts; but it will suffice at present to quote a few passages from a secret memorial presented the year before last to the Emperor by Tseng Kwo-fan, on the subject of the revision of the treaty. Tseng, who was at the time the Viceroy of the Kiang Su, Ngan-Huei, and Kiang-Si provinces, has been known for many years as one of the ablest, most influential, and famous statesmen in the Empire. In this memorial he undertakes, among other things, to enlighten the Emperor on the end which foreigners had in view in coming to China. He describes it in the following highly complimentary terms:—

Foreigners in the East and West, for several hundreds

of years, have been making and unmaking kingdoms, each kingdom wishing to deprive its neighbour's subjects of some advantage, with the hope that its own subjects might ultimately profit thereby. Their object in coming to China, setting up places of business everywhere, and trading largely in goods, is to follow out their nefarious devices of depriving others of advantages; and they wish to damage our merchants.

He proceeds to bemoan the miseries which the foreign trade has brought on the people already, and to point out the dire calamities which would befall the country on its extension. He seems to refer the foreign trade and the Tai-ping rebellion to the same category. "Ever since the commencement of the troubles (Tai-ping rebellion) the people of China have suffered fire and water. The additional openings of some ports, and of the river (Yang-tai), has been contracting their means from day to day; they suffer in mute agony, and will be driven to extremity." This is the light in which Tseng views the opening of the Great River, an event fraught with palpable and unmingled advantage to the Government and people. We are now quite prepared for what follows:—

If trade in salt is conceded to foreigners, salt merchants will suffer in business; if the buildings of godowns (in the interior), the establishments already existing will suffer. If small steamers are allowed in the interior, native craft of every size, sailors and pilots will suffer; if they are allowed to construct telegraphs and railroads, (owners of) carts, mules, chairs, and inns, and the coolies' livelihood will suffer.

Knowing that the foreigner's demand for the opening of coal-mines, in order to provide for steam requirements, is imperative, and that the privilege cannot be long withheld. Tseng timidly advises that a slight concession should be made on this point.

The same may be said of all other demands, with the exception of the coalmines. It would enrich China to borrow foreign appliances for extracting coal, and it would appear to deserve a trial. As to the remainder—small steamers, railroads, &c.—if the foreigners are allowed to introduce them, they will monopolise the whole of the profits of the country; if our people are allowed to join with foreigners in introducing them, the rich would get the profit at the expense of the poor; neither plan is practicable.

With respect to an embassy to Europe and America, Tseng expresses himself as follows:—

With respect to the question of an embassy, the terms of amity between us and other nations will necessarily bring about constant intercourse. The duty of an envoy is to represent the dignity of the Government, and to smooth over difficulties. On the whole, therefore, the despatch of an envoy may be conceded.

Here we have an insight into the spirit in which the Burlingame mission was conceived. By the Chinese Government it is regarded in the light of a concession, and adopted as a measure of necessity. Its object is not to promote the interests of commerce, and bring China and the Western nations into closer relations, but to represent the dignity of the Chinese Government, and to smooth over difficulties.

His views on the propagation of religion in China are interesting as throwing considerable light on the whole subject. The following is well worth a careful perusal:—

As to the opening of the interior for the spread of religion, your minister would observe that the Roman Catholics began by attracting men by mercenary motives, but lately, through the poverty of the missionaries, this inducement has not been held out so much, and their arguments accordingly not so much believed. The Confucian doctrine was somewhat obscured after the Tsin and Han dynasties, while Buddhism gained strength. Buddhism had its rise in India, and it is now supplanted in a great measure by Mohammedanism there. Now Protestantism has sprung up in the East and West, and opposes Roman Catholicism with much power. It is very evident that the different religions fluctuate from time to time in their vigour. Confucianism has not suffered by attrition through myriads of ages, and it has regenerated China in government, morals, manners, and doctrines. Whatever method they (the missionaries) may take to spread other religions, they will get but few converts. As there are many places of worship in the towns and cities of every province, there is no room for much greater extension. Should, therefore, these powers reiterate strongly their demand, they will probably not press for more if a promise were made that a protective document should be issued for their religion whenever called for, and no further article would be needed in the treaty.

With these words before us we have no difficulty in reading the Viceroy's very heart on the question of missions. His idea is this. Confucianism is the only system of religion and morals which can lay claim to perfection, completeness, and indestructibility. Compared with it, Christianity is beneath contempt. A genuine conversion from Confucianism to Christianity is simply impossible. If any converts, therefore, have been made, they have not been won over by the power and beauty of truth, but by the attraction of mercenary motives. Exhaust the source of this converting power, and religious propaganda in China must die a natural death. It would be well to get rid of the nuisance at once; but there is France. Commerce is everything with England, and if she alone had to be dealt with the question might be easily settled. But it is not so easy to reason with France on this subject, and as China cannot afford to come into collision with her just now, the best thing the Government can do is to appear to yield a little. Let the priests of Rome remain where they are, and prosecute their hopeless task as best they can, for they will make but few converts. Confucianism has nothing to fear from Christianity. The more they will get into trouble the better, for that will only make residence in the interior insufferably disagreeable to them, whilst the Government can save face by issuing empty pro-

tective documents whenever called for. Of course all difficulties might be prevented at once and for ever, by inserting another article in the Treaty and announcing to the people that the will of the Emperor was really and truly embodied in it; but that would frustrate the long cherished hope of seeing China purged of the missionaries and their poisonous doctrines. The aim of the Government must be to render the residence of foreigners in the interior impossible, by exciting and encouraging manifestations of hostile feeling on the part of the literati and people, and, when the mischief has been done, to issue friendly proclamations in order to make it appear that the authorities are free of all blame in the matter. Thus the Government may hope to prevent any further extension of missionary operations, whether in connection with Roman Catholics or Protestants, and to gradually compel the Missionaries, who now occupy inland cities and towns, to retire to the treaty ports.

Such, I believe, was the mind of Tseng Kwo-fan when he wrote this memorial, and the Yang-chow difficulty sprang, as I shall show by-and-by, from an attempt to carry out the policy here recommended. It is worthy of remark that the tone of Tseng's strictures on missionary operations discloses no special hatred to missionaries as a class. Indeed it is mildness itself when compared with the harshness of the terms used to describe the object of the foreign merchant and the effects of the foreign trade. This fact is significant; and I shall have occasion to refer to it when I come to rebut the charges preferred against the missionaries by Sir Rutherford Alcock and others.

Tseng concludes the memorial with a confession of weakness, and an intimation of the policy which China will pursue towards foreign nations should she ever find herself again in the ascendant.

Foreigners are now in the ascendant; but we cannot to the neglect of the misery of our people, follow all the windings to which complaisance would hold us. Should times ever alter, and China be in the ascendant, while foreigners are weak, we then shall do no more than protect the Chinese, nor shall we seek for military glory beyond the seas. With all their (foreigners') perversions and wiles, they know that when logic is correct there is no escape from it, and that when the mass of people are indignant we cannot work against them.

Of the misery to which Tseng refers we know nothing; of this indignation on the part of the people we have seen nothing; but in the memorial we discover the old anti-foreign and anti-progressive spirit of the governing class, whilst feeling compelled to yield somewhat to the forces that are pressing all around, still clinging tenaciously to its traditions, hugging fondly its policy of isolation, and resolved to oppose to the last every regenerative influence which can be brought to bear on China.

According to the most cherished sentiments of this class, the presence of foreigners has been from the beginning a source of evil, and of evil only, to the land; they must be tolerated simply because they are in the ascendant, and cannot be driven out; China, however, is putting forth every effort to acquire that material strength which is necessary to enable her to cope successfully with the outer barbarians on their own ground; a brighter day may yet dawn on the Middle Kingdom, when she shall be able to protect her own people by expelling all foreigners from her coasts, and by restoring to the whole country the blissful reign of perfect stagnation. Should that day ever arrive, all that Tseng can promise is, that China will not follow the foreigners beyond the seas, in order to seek for military glory in foreign lands. "The Foreign Office," writes Tseng, has with great pains acted up to the true method of taking the time and circumstances into account—viz., "to devise the most unanswerable and irresistible arguments, without at the same time damaging the great interests at stake; and to cherish the thought of wiping out our shame, without at the same time allowing the other parties to suspect it." Thus Tseng fully approves of the policy recommended by the Foreign Office at Peking; and that policy is simply this: The country must be swept clean of these hated foreigners; this however, is not the time to do it—"the time and circumstances are to be taken into account"; in the meantime the Government must act wisely and deceitfully, and gain by diplomacy what it has not the power to wring by force. "The most unanswerable and irresistible arguments are to be devised"; the day to remove the national reproach will come, and then China will appear in her true character, and give to the barbaric nations, that are now tormenting and distracting her, a clear and final demonstration of her foreign policy. "The thought of wiping out our shame must be cherished, without at the same time allowing the other parties to suspect it."

Tseng, though the most able and prudent, is not the only great officer who has memorialised the Emperor on the important subject of foreign relations. A memorial has lately been presented to the throne by an officer of high rank, in which he recommends that "every foreigner should be driven from the country, as the only means of avenging the insults heaped by them on the last Emperor."

Now these men do not stand alone. Were that the case, their memorials might be treated with silent contempt. They represent the whole official body, and express the most cherished hopes and sentiments of all the Mandarins and scholars throughout the Empire. There may be a few exceptions; but, if there are any exceptions at all, they are so few that it would be useless, and even misleading, to take them into consideration.

With these facts before us it is extremely difficult to account for the line of conduct which Mr. Burlingame has adopted in his representations of the Chinese Government in Europe and America. Far

be it from me to ascribe it to a mean, unworthy motive. I trust and believe that the honourable gentleman is far above that. But I confess that it puzzles me to make out how a shrewd observer of men, such as Mr. Burlingame is generally supposed to be, could have lived so many years in China, and have daily communication with the Peking officials, and remain so utterly stone-blind to the real state of things around him. As to this fact, I wish to leave it as I found it, an insoluble mystery. I only wish to state that it is sheer nonsense to speak of China as ready and willing to enter at once into the family of civilised nations, to accept progress in the sense in which we understand it, to throw the country open to Christian missionaries and foreign merchants, and to become in all respects such as we are. Whatever views Mr. Burlingame may hold on this subject, it is highly important that the Treaty powers should know exactly how matters stand; for any policy based on his representations cannot but lead to confusion, and end in bitter disappointment.

GRIFFITH JOHN.

Hankow.

IRELAND.

Judge Fitzgerald has declared the election of Captain Greville-Nugent for Longford county void on the ground of extensive and corrupt treating. Father Reynolda and other clergy are to be reported as guilty. He condemned the conduct of the "Martin raiders," and held that defensive force was legal under the circumstances. He held that the charges of spiritual influence and intimidation were not sustained; and, while censuring the priests for treating, thought that their illegal conduct was forced on them by the Martinites. He held that Captain Greville-Nugent was personally exonerated, but that he was responsible for the conduct of his agents and the priests. He refused costs to the petitioners on the ground that they had made serious charges which were not supported, and he considered the conduct of the Martinites as censurable.

Two candidates for the vacant seat are mentioned—the Hon. George Greville-Nugent, a son of Lord Greville, and an elder brother of the unseated member, and Captain Harman, son of the Hon. King Harman, who will come forward as a "Conservative-Repealer." The "National" party will support him.

A letter from Dublin, dated Saturday, says:—"The country exhibits some signs of moral improvement which are calculated to inspire its friends with hope that a perfectly satisfactory state of things will soon be established. Agrarianism presents less repulsive features, although there are still communications from 'Rory of the Hills' and midnight visits of his lawless bands in some places. The Peace Preservation Act has come quietly, but not the less effectively, into operation, and there can be no doubt that the greater vigilance and resolution of the authorities have already produced salutary results. A new spirit has been infused into the people. The loyal and well-disposed are delivered from the tyranny of a secret power, which for awhile seemed to be supreme and uncontrollable. The disturbers of the peace are overawed by the determined measures of the Government, and we may expect to see an end put to the organised anarchy which has prevailed in some places." The *Tipperary Free Press* mentions that a few evenings ago three men with faces blackened entered the house of a farmer, named Patrick Ryan, at Cormackstown, near Thurles. He happened to be in an outhouse, putting up his cattle for the night, and his two daughters were the only occupants of the house. Two of the party remained outside as sentinels, while the third man entered the house, and, taking a lighted candle off the table, went into another room and took away a fowling-piece, the daughters being too much frightened to offer any resistance or make any outcry. Visits of this kind are not unfrequent in the West. An old man, named Patrick M'Guire, was killed on Monday morning in a dispute with two men, named Patrick and James Hanley, in the county of Roscommon. The Hanleys held a house and some connacre from the deceased, but their dealings not being thought satisfactory, he refused to let them the ground again. They proceeded on Monday to till the land as usual, and when he attempted to prevent them, they, it is alleged, struck him with their "loys," or spades, and laid him lifeless in a few moments. A verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned against them at the coroner's inquest, and they have been committed to gaol. This is the only crime of a heinous nature which has been committed during the week.

The Irish national press exhibits undiminished wrath at the Ministerial determination to maintain law and order across St. George's Channel. The *Irishman* of Friday prints two of its articles in mourning for the passing of the Peace Preservation Bill, which it calls the death-warrant of liberty of speech in Ireland. It sums up its opinions on the subject by a single line, emphatically announcing, "There is no Liberty of the Press in Ireland."

Cardinal Cullen arrived on Monday evening from Rome, and was received at Kingston by a large number of private friends.

A large box, containing a quantity of rifles, pikes, and ammunition, was seized on board the Fleetwood steamer on her arrival at Belfast. The man to whom it is addressed claims it, but it has been detained pending an inquiry.

At Monaghan assize, on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Keogh, twenty-two men were indicted for a riot at Scotstown, on the 22nd of February. There

was a wedding party at Scotstown. A riot ensued between the traversers, who were known as the "Fenian" party, and forty others, headed by one Andrew McCaffray, who were known as the "Bogmen," or "Ribbonmen." Firearms were used on both sides, but without any serious results. The twenty-two "Fenians" having been found guilty, the forty "Bogmen" were arraigned. These latter pleaded guilty. His lordship, in passing sentence, commented strongly on the wicked absurdity of these conflicts. The county Monaghan had been represented as a peaceable one, and yet the gaol, it now appeared, could not contain all those condemned to it. One of the Fenians, named McKenna, was sentenced to six months, and sixty-one others to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A scene of an extraordinary character took place on Thursday evening in the Protestant Hall, Limerick. The Rev. George McCutcheon, rector of Kenmare, in delivering a lecture in connection with the Christian Young Men's Association, upon the subject of "Henry Grattan and the Parliament of Ireland," broke out into fierce invective against the policy pursued systematically by England towards Ireland since the Union, and said that treachery and baseness had marked every phase of Irish legislation up to the period of the passing of the Coercion Bill, which measure he said, if introduced into any other country in Europe, would so raise the indignation of the people that it would cost the sovereign his head. He wound up his subject by declaring in favour of a repeal of the legislative union as the only means of redressing Ireland's many wrongs. During the lecture he was vociferously applauded, principally by the young men present, while others were demonstrative in their condemnation. Several stood up and left the hall, among them the garrison chaplain. The Dean of Limerick, who presided, at the conclusion of the lecture expressed in unmeasured terms his disapproval of the Rev. Mr. McCutcheon's views.

AN APPEAL FOR SHETLAND.

For several months past the attention of the British public has been called to the condition of the peasantry in the Shetland Isles. The northern shore of Unst, the most northern portion of Great Britain, is seventy miles further north than Cape Farewell, the southern point of Greenland, and the climate being ungenial, it is with difficulty and uncertainty that the Shetlanders can raise crops on their small plots of land. From north to south the islands are about sixty miles in extent, with an area of less than half the county of Cornwall; and so deeply is the land indented with fjords, or "voes," that the coast line is more than 300 miles in length. The inhabitants depend chiefly for support on fishing, and the produce of their land. Their general character is marked by industry and temperance. The harvest of 1868 was defective, and the catch of fish very scanty, causing much destitution during the winter of 1868-9. Some help was afforded last winter and spring by supplying food for immediate relief, and corn and potatoes for seed. Again the harvest was unfavourable in 1869; heavy and repeated storms of wind, hail, and snow beat down and threshed out the corn before it was ripe or cut. The grain saved was not more than the seed sown, and so damaged as to be unfit for food or seed. Much disaster and disappointment also attended the fishing; and now the condition of this locality, always one of poverty, is intensified to a state bordering on starvation; and the destitution is greater than has been known for more than twenty years. It is chiefly in the northern portion that this extreme distress prevails. In some of the southern parts the harvest was earlier and better, and the fishing more successful.

The committee having charge of the Shetland Relief Fund have received abundant evidence from ministers of religion, merchants, and schoolmasters, and more than twenty letters, all worthy of credit, completely establishing the fact of wide-spread and deep distress, requiring that an appeal for aid should be extensively circulated, and meet with a generous response, to avert the calamity of famine fever and overwhelming distress. From among the many letters received the following is an extract from a communication sent by the Rev. James Frazer, Independent minister, dated March 17:—

The facts of the case are these: the growing season all through 1869 was the most unfavourable ever remembered in these islands. The storm of wind and hail came on the 13th October, and continued with more or less violence for nearly a fortnight. When the storm came on, some few of the people had cut down their whole crop, some one-half, and some scarcely any at all. All uncut lay exposed to storm and hail all the time I have named; and those who had the whole or greater part so exposed, have been very poorly fed all the winter, because what remained in it was unfit for food. Potatoes, which is a principal article of food in Shetland, did not grow this season to any perfection, and what did grow, was sorely wasted with the disease which has been in these islands since 1840, and which a continuance of wet weather seems specially to favour. There is considerable difference even in Shetland in the crop becoming ready for the sickle. Some have a little more or less of bere (a kind of barley). It is ready before oats, and did not suffer from the hail. Some places are more exposed to the sun, and come faster to maturity than others; and I believe the islands of West and Yell have little bere in their crops, and are generally better than many other places. 1st. In the case of some tenants, the cows they have are already sold and their price eaten; and they, with the apparent owner, entirely at the will of the party who advanced that supply. 2nd. When a Shetland small farmer or crofter parts with his few cows, he is done. After that he must remove to Lerwick, or come on the parochial board, or

he may take both as two steps in his downward progress. I wish it were possible to get a Government inquiry into the state of these islands. The cry of distress coming from them is becoming so frequent, that it is time something were done to ascertain the cause. The present is an exceptional year. My memory carries me back over a period of upwards of forty years, but anything like this in the failure of crops I never saw. But few years have passed of late without a call to the benevolent to meet some case or cases of distress in these islands, arguing the existence of a state of things that ought not to exist.

The Shetland Relief Committee have forwarded already to the northern part of Shetland, corn and potatoes for seed to the extent of about 5000l., and supplies of food at a cost of about 200l. Amongst the contributors to the fund being raised by them are the Earl of Zetland, Mr. Joseph Pease, Darlington, Sir Titus Salt, Bart., Sir F. Crossley, M.P., Mr. A. Backhouse, Mr. G. Sturge, Mr. W. Pollard. Should a larger fund be contributed than is required for present necessities, it is proposed to appropriate the balance to the promotion of emigration. Contributions for the fund may be forwarded to the Treasurer, Thomas Hodgkin, Esq., banker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to whom Post Office orders should be made payable; or to Dimdale and Co., bankers, Cornhill, London, for the "Shetland Relief Fund."

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 13th, 1870.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons met at half-past two o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the Prime Minister announced that it should at its rising adjourn for the Easter holidays till Monday, the 25th instant. Sir Wilfrid Lawson called attention to the serious public injury which had been caused by the delay in introducing the Licensing Bill, and urged upon the House the imperative necessity for dealing with the question, which he regarded as more important than either the Irish Land Bill or the Education Bill, during the present session. Sir H. SELWYN-LESTON differed from the member for Carlisle as to the proper course to be pursued with regard to this matter, and expressed a confident opinion that if the Government did not see their way to passing the Licensing Bill during the present session, it would be better that it should not be laid upon the table. This conviction was shared by Mr. B. OSBORNE, who urged the Premier rather to diminish than add to the measures before the House, and declared his readiness to sacrifice any measure—even Education and the Ballot—to secure the passing of the Irish Land Bill, which he perceived was in great danger from the open opposition of the Conservatives, and the "inconvenient support" of gentlemen who had been "judge-advocates and things of that sort" upon the Ministerial benches. Mr. BRUCE did not in terms abandon all idea of introducing his Licensing Bill this year; but by his allusion to "the earliest day next session," he clearly indicated that he entertained only the very slightest hope of being able to do so, and distinctly declared that if the bill could not be thoroughly discussed and completely understood it would be better that it should not be produced. He could not but regard the Education Bill as more important than the Licensing Bill, and was, therefore, determined to do nothing to interfere with the progress of that measure. Mr. HORSER thanked the Home Secretary for the assurance that the Government intend to persevere with the Education Bill, and promised that in the performance of that task they would receive the support of the Opposition. Catching at this assurance, Mr. MUNDELLA declared that if the promise it involved was to be redeemed, a very different course must be pursued than that which had been adopted with regard to the Irish Land Bill by some "weak-kneed and timid" members on his own side of the House, and by factious ones on the other. He was especially severe upon the course pursued by Lord Elcho, whose speeches he described as an echo of the canter of the horse described by Mr. Tennyson which went "Propetty, propetty, propetty"; and called upon the members of the Liberal party to give a hearty and unanimous support to the Ministers in urging the Land Bill through the House. To these observations the noble member for Haddingtonshire replied by sneering at Mr. Mundella's capacity, with his two years' experience in the House, to lecture himself who had sat there for twenty-eight years and had worked out his own independence; and asserting that that gentleman's qualification for a seat in Parliament was founded upon a claim to have invented a system of conciliation between employers and workmen which was proved to have existed in the Potteries for twenty years before he discovered it. At some length the noble lord defended the course which he had pursued with reference to the Irish Land Bill; but Mr. GLADSTONE, who, after "the barren and unprofitable discussion" of last Friday, had hoped that they had for the present heard the last of the subject, declined to enter into this controversy; and, while admitting that the Govern-

ment had undertaken to do too much during the present session, reminded hon. members that this had been done to meet their wishes; and pointed out that the credit of the House itself as well as that of the Government was involved in the redemption as far as possible of the promises of legislation which had been given. Sir JOHN PARNETON generally defended the course pursued by the Opposition against the charges of the member for Sheffield, and assured the House that when Parliament reassembled after the vacation, the Conservative party would offer no factious opposition to the Land Bill, and would seek to place no unreasonable obstacle in the way of its progress. After a short conversation, in the course of which Mr. P. A. TAYLOR protested against the House having any holidays at all, the motion for the adjournment was adopted.

Some time was occupied in giving notices of motions with reference to business which is to come before the House after Easter; and then the report of the Budget resolutions was received and agreed to. Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE complaining that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not dealt with the injustices and inequalities of the house duty; Mr. MACRIN asking for a modification of the arrangements as to the drawback allowed on sugar; Mr. MORLEY seeking the return of some of the duty already paid upon sugar, according to the old scale; and an appeal being made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce some discrimination into the method of levying the duty upon carrying fire-arms. Mr. MACRIN rose to move the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the Patent Laws, but before he had made much progress with his remarks the House was counted out.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

The Ministerial crisis in France continues. Strenuous efforts are being made to retain M. Daru in the Cabinet.

The report of the Committee of the Senate on the Senatus Consultum was brought up yesterday. On the most important points the committee are at one with the Ministry and the Emperor. They regard the right of appeal to the people as essentially inherent to a democratic Government, and consider that the ratification of the Senatus Consultum by a plebiscite is the natural order of things. They reject the suggestion that the senators should be elected by universal suffrage as inconsistent with monarchical institutions and the Conservative function of the Senate. Perhaps the most important suggestion made by the committee is as to Article XV., that the judges should be irremovable. The Senate adopted the report of the committee unanimously. It is said that the Council of Ministers have decided to take the vote of the people on two points; first, the hereditary succession of the Imperial dynasty, and secondly, the democratic reforms. Demonstrations against the plebiscite are being organised. The Emperor remains inflexible on the subject.

According to a telegram from Rome, dated Monday, the Vatican has come to the decision, after consulting the Spanish bishops on the subject, that the clergy of Spain cannot take the oath of fidelity to the Constitution. It is announced in the same telegram that M. Banneville, the bearer of a note from the French Government, and which has, it is said, received the approval of other Catholic Powers, has arrived in Rome.

Lopez is dead, and the war in Paraguay is at an end. This news was brought by the Brazilian mail-steamer which arrived at Liverpool yesterday. Our latest previous advices were that Lopez had invaded Matto Grosso, and surprised and defeated General Camara, who had retired on Concepcion. It appears that Camara subsequently advanced from Concepcion, and defeated Lopez at Aquibana. He died fighting, and the remnant of his army were made prisoners. These tidings caused great rejoicings throughout Brazil.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to Mark-lane this morning, the receipts of wheat from Essex and Kent have been only moderate. Nevertheless the demand for both red and white produce has ruled heavy, at about the rates current on Monday. There has been a good show of foreign wheat on the stands. The trade has been quiet, at late quotations. Moderate supplies of barley have been on offer. Very little business has been doing, at previous quotations. Malt has sold slowly, on former terms. The market has been fairly supplied with oats, for which there was a moderate request, at late current rates. Beans and peas have been dull but firm. Flour has changed hands quietly.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	520	200	670	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	7,430	22,193	—	13,840	570 str.
					14,810 brls.
					Malze, 10,580 qrs.

COMPARATIVE QUANTITIES AND PRICES OF GRAIN.

For the week ending April 9. For the corresponding week last year.

	Qrs.	Av. s. d.		Qrs.	Av. s. d.
Wheat	59,809	42 8	Wheat	50,871	47 0
Barley	21,452	34 11	Barley	12,771	44 0
Oats	4,378	30 0	Oats	3,060	26 6

of years, have been making and unmaking kingdoms, each kingdom wishing to deprive its neighbour's subjects of some advantage, with the hope that its own subjects might ultimately profit thereby. Their object in coming to China, setting up places of business everywhere, and trading largely in goods, is to follow out their nefarious devices of depriving others of advantages; and they wish to damage our merchants.

He proceeds to bemoan the miseries which the foreign trade has brought on the people already, and to point out the dire calamities which would befall the country on its extension. He seems to refer the foreign trade and the Tai-ping rebellion to the same category. "Ever since the commencement of the troubles (Tai-ping rebellion) the people of China have suffered fire and water. The additional openings of some ports, and of the river (Yang-tsi), has been contracting their means from day to day; they suffer in mute agony, and will be driven to extremity." This is the light in which Tseng views the opening of the Great River, an event fraught with palpable and unmingled advantage to the Government and people. We are now quite prepared for what follows:—

If trade in salt is conceded to foreigners, salt merchants will suffer in business; if the buildings of godowns (in the interior), the establishments already existing will suffer. If small steamers are allowed in the interior, native craft of every size, sailors and pilots will suffer; if they are allowed to construct telegraphs and railroads, (owners of) carts, mules, chairs, and inns, and the coolies' livelihood will suffer.

Knowing that the foreigner's demand for the opening of coal-mines, in order to provide for steam requirements, is imperative, and that the privilege cannot be long withheld. Tseng timidly advises that a slight concession should be made on this point.

The same may be said of all other demands, with the exception of the coalmines. It would enrich China to borrow foreign appliances for extracting coal, and it would appear to deserve a trial. As to the remainder—small steamers, railroads, &c.—if the foreigners are allowed to introduce them, they will monopolise the whole of the profits of the country; if our people are allowed to join with foreigners in introducing them, the rich would get the profit at the expense of the poor; neither plan is practicable.

With respect to an embassy to Europe and America, Tseng expresses himself as follows:—

With respect to the question of an embassy, the terms of amity between us and other nations will necessarily bring about constant intercourse. The duty of an envoy is to represent the dignity of the Government, and to smooth over difficulties. On the whole, therefore, the despatch of an envoy may be conceded.

Here we have an insight into the spirit in which the Burlingame mission was conceived. By the Chinese Government it is regarded in the light of a concession, and adopted as a measure of necessity. Its object is not to promote the interests of commerce, and bring China and the Western nations into closer relations, but to represent the dignity of the Chinese Government, and to smooth over difficulties.

His views on the propagation of religion in China are interesting as throwing considerable light on the whole subject. The following is well worth a careful perusal:—

As to the opening of the interior for the spread of religion, your minister would observe that the Roman Catholics began by attracting men by mercenary motives, but lately, through the poverty of the missionaries, this inducement has not been held out so much, and their arguments accordingly not so much believed. The Confucian doctrine was somewhat obscured after the Tsin and Han dynasties, while Buddhism gained strength. Buddhism had its rise in India, and it is now supplanted in a great measure by Mohammedanism there. Now Protestantism has sprung up in the East and West, and opposes Roman Catholicism with much power. It is very evident that the different religions fluctuate from time to time in their vigour. Confucianism has not suffered by attrition through myriads of ages, and it has regenerated China in government, morals, manners, and doctrines. Whatever method they (the missionaries) may take to spread other religions, they will get but few converts. As there are many places of worship in the towns and cities of every province, there is no room for much greater extension. Should, therefore, these powers reiterate strongly their demand, they will probably not press for more if a promise were made that a protective document should be issued for their religion whenever called for, and no further article would be needed in the treaty.

With these words before us we have no difficulty in reading the Viceroy's very heart on the question of missions. His idea is this. Confucianism is the only system of religion and morals which can lay claim to perfection, completeness, and indestructibility. Compared with it, Christianity is beneath contempt. A genuine conversion from Confucianism to Christianity is simply impossible. If any converts, therefore, have been made, they have not been won over by the power and beauty of truth, but by the attraction of mercenary motives. Exhaust the source of this converting power, and religious propaganda in China must die a natural death. It would be well to get rid of the nuisance at once; but there is France. Commerce is everything with England, and if she alone had to be dealt with the question might be easily settled. But it is not so easy to reason with France on this subject, and as China cannot afford to come into collision with her just now, the best thing the Government can do is to appear to yield a little. Let the priests of Rome remain where they are, and prosecute their hopeless task as best they can, for they will make but few converts. Confucianism has nothing to fear from Christianity. The more they will get into trouble the better, for that will only make residence in the interior insufferably disagreeable to them, whilst the Government can save face by issuing empty pro-

tective documents whenever called for. Of course all difficulties might be prevented at once and for ever, by inserting another article in the Treaty and announcing to the people that the will of the Emperor was really and truly embodied in it; but that would frustrate the long cherished hope of seeing China purged of the missionaries and their poisonous doctrines. The aim of the Government must be to render the residence of foreigners in the interior impossible, by exciting and encouraging manifestations of hostile feeling on the part of the literati and people, and, when the mischief has been done, to issue friendly proclamations in order to make it appear that the authorities are free of all blame in the matter. Thus the Government may hope to prevent any further extension of missionary operations, whether in connection with Roman Catholics or Protestants, and to gradually compel the Missionaries, who now occupy inland cities and towns, to retire to the treaty ports.

Such, I believe, was the mind of Tseng Kwo-fan when he wrote this memorial, and the Yang-chow difficulty sprang, as I shall show by-and-by, from an attempt to carry out the policy here recommended. It is worthy of remark that the tone of Tseng's strictures on missionary operations discloses no special hatred to missionaries as a class. Indeed it is mildness itself when compared with the harshness of the terms used to describe the object of the foreign merchant and the effects of the foreign trade. This fact is significant; and I shall have occasion to refer to it when I come to rebut the charges preferred against the missionaries by Sir Rutherford Alcock and others.

Tseng concludes the memorial with a confession of weakness, and an intimation of the policy which China will pursue towards foreign nations should she ever find herself again in the ascendant.

Foreigners are now in the ascendant; but we cannot to the neglect of the misery of our people, follow all the windings to which complaisance would hold us. Should times ever alter, and China be in the ascendant, while foreigners are weak, we then shall do no more than protect the Chinese, nor shall we seek for military glory beyond the seas. With all their (foreigners') perversions and wiles, they know that when logic is correct there is no escape from it, and that when the mass of people are indignant we cannot work against them.

Of the misery to which Tseng refers we know nothing; of this indignation on the part of the people we have seen nothing; but in the memorial we discover the old anti-foreign and anti-progressive spirit of the governing class, whilst feeling compelled to yield somewhat to the forces that are pressing all around, still clinging tenaciously to its traditions, hugging fondly its policy of isolation, and resolved to oppose to the last every regenerative influence which can be brought to bear on China.

According to the most cherished sentiments of this class, the presence of foreigners has been from the beginning a source of evil, and of evil only, to the land; they must be tolerated simply because they are in the ascendant, and cannot be driven out; China, however, is putting forth every effort to acquire that material strength which is necessary to enable her to cope successfully with the outer barbarians on their own ground; a brighter day may yet dawn on the Middle Kingdom, when she shall be able to protect her own people by expelling all foreigners from her coasts, and by restoring to the whole country the blissful reign of perfect stagnation. Should that day ever arrive, all that Tseng can promise is, that China will not follow the foreigners beyond the seas, in order to seek for military glory in foreign lands. "The Foreign Office," writes Tseng, has with great pains acted up to the true method of taking the time and circumstances into account—viz., "to devise the most unanswerable and irresistible arguments, without at the same time damaging the great interests at stake; and to cherish the thought of wiping out our shame, without at the same time allowing the other parties to suspect it." Thus Tseng fully approves of the policy recommended by the Foreign Office at Peking; and that policy is simply this: The country must be swept clean of these hated foreigners; this however, is not the time to do it—"the time and circumstances are to be taken into account"; in the meantime the Government must act wisely and deceitfully, and gain by diplomacy what it has not the power to wring by force. "The most unanswerable and irresistible arguments are to be devised"; the day to remove the national reproach will come, and then China will appear in her true character, and give to the barbaric nations, that are now tormenting and distracting her, a clear and final demonstration of her foreign policy. "The thought of wiping out our shame must be cherished, without at the same time allowing the other parties to suspect it."

Tseng, though the most able and prudent, is not the only great officer who has memorialised the Emperor on the important subject of foreign relations. A memorial has lately been presented to the throne by an officer of high rank, in which he recommends that "every foreigner should be driven from the country, as the only means of avenging the insults heaped by them on the last Emperor."

Now these men do not stand alone. Were that the case, their memorials might be treated with silent contempt. They represent the whole official body, and express the most cherished hopes and sentiments of all the Mandarins and scholars throughout the Empire. There may be a few exceptions; but, if there are any exceptions at all, they are so few that it would be useless, and even misleading, to take them into consideration.

With these facts before us it is extremely difficult to account for the line of conduct which Mr. Burlingame has adopted in his representations of the Chinese Government in Europe and America. Far

be it from me to ascribe it to a mean, unworthy motive. I trust and believe that the honourable gentleman is far above that. But I confess that it puzzles me to make out how a shrewd observer of men, such as Mr. Burlingame is generally supposed to be, could have lived so many years in China, and have daily communication with the Peking officials, and remain so utterly stone-blind to the real state of things around him. As to this fact, I wish to leave it as I found it, an insoluble mystery. I only wish to state that it is sheer nonsense to speak of China as ready and willing to enter at once into the family of civilised nations, to accept progress in the sense in which we understand it, to throw the country open to Christian missionaries and foreign merchants, and to become in all respects such as we are. Whatever views Mr. Burlingame may hold on this subject, it is highly important that the Treaty powers should know exactly how matters stand; for any policy based on his representations cannot but lead to confusion, and end in bitter disappointment.

GRIFFITH JOHN.

Hankow.

IRELAND.

Judge Fitzgerald has declared the election of Captain Greville-Nugent for Longford county void on the ground of extensive and corrupt treating. Father Reynolds and other clergy are to be reported as guilty. He condemned the conduct of the "Martin raiders," and held that defensive force was legal under the circumstances. He held that the charges of spiritual influence and intimidation were not sustained; and, while censuring the priests for treating, thought that their illegal conduct was forced on them by the Martinites. He held that Captain Greville-Nugent was personally exonerated, but that he was responsible for the conduct of his agents and the priests. He refused costs to the petitioners on the ground that they had made serious charges which were not supported, and he considered the conduct of the Martinites as censurable.

Two candidates for the vacant seat are mentioned—the Hon. George Greville-Nugent, a son of Lord Greville, and an elder brother of the unseated member, and Captain Harman, son of the Hon. King Harman, who will come forward as a "Conservative-Repealer." The "National" party will support him.

A letter from Dublin, dated Saturday, says:—"The country exhibits some signs of moral improvement which are calculated to inspire its friends with hope that a perfectly satisfactory state of things will soon be established. Agrarianism presents less repulsive features, although there are still communications from 'Rory of the Hills' and midnight visits of his lawless bands in some places. The Peace Preservation Act has come quietly, but not the less effectively, into operation, and there can be no doubt that the greater vigilance and resolution of the authorities have already produced salutary results. A new spirit has been infused into the people. The loyal and well-disposed are delivered from the tyranny of a secret power, which for awhile seemed to be supreme and uncontrollable. The disturbers of the peace are overawed by the determined measures of the Government, and we may expect to see an end put to the organised anarchy which has prevailed in some places." The *Tipperary Free Press* mentions that a few evenings ago three men with faces blackened entered the house of a farmer, named Patrick Ryan, at Cormackstown, near Thurles. He happened to be in an outhouse, putting up his cattle for the night, and his two daughters were the only occupants of the house. Two of the party remained outside as sentinels, while the third man entered the house, and, taking a lighted candle off the table, went into another room and took away a fowling-piece, the daughters being too much frightened to offer any resistance or make any outcry. Visits of this kind are not unfrequent in the West. An old man, named Patrick McGuire, was killed on Monday morning in a dispute with two men, named Patrick and James Hanley, in the county of Roscommon. The Hanleys held a house and some conacre from the deceased, but their dealings not being thought satisfactory, he refused to let them the ground again. They proceeded on Monday to till the land as usual, and when he attempted to prevent them, they, it is alleged, struck him with their "loys," or spades, and laid him lifeless in a few moments. A verdict of "Wilful murder" was returned against them at the coroner's inquest, and they have been committed to gaol. This is the only crime of a heinous nature which has been committed during the week.

The Irish national press exhibits undiminished wrath at the Ministerial determination to maintain law and order across St. George's Channel. The *Irishman* of Friday prints two of its articles in mourning for the passing of the Peace Preservation Bill, which it calls the death-warrant of liberty of speech in Ireland. It sums up its opinions on the subject by a single line, emphatically announcing, "There is no Liberty of the Press in Ireland."

Cardinal Cullen arrived on Monday evening from Rome, and was received at Kingston by a large number of private friends.

A large box, containing a quantity of rifles, pikes, and ammunition, was seized on board the Fleetwood steamer on her arrival at Belfast. The man to whom it is addressed claims it, but it has been detained pending an inquiry.

At Monaghan assize, on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Keogh, twenty-two men were indicted for a riot at Scotstown, on the 22nd of February. There

was a wedding party at Scotstown. A riot ensued between the traversers, who were known as the "Fenian" party, and forty others, headed by one Andrew McCaffray, who were known as the "Bogmen," or "Ribbonmen." Firearms were used on both sides, but without any serious results. The twenty-two "Fenians" having been found guilty, the forty "Bogmen" were arraigned. These latter pleaded guilty. His lordship, in passing sentence, commented strongly on the wicked absurdity of these conflicts. The county Monaghan had been represented as a peaceable one, and yet the gaol, it now appeared, could not contain all those condemned to it. One of the Fenians, named McKenna, was sentenced to six months, and sixty-one others to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A scene of an extraordinary character took place on Thursday evening in the Protestant Hall, Limerick. The Rev. George McCutchin, rector of Kenmare, in delivering a lecture in connection with the Christian Young Men's Association, upon the subject of "Henry Grattan and the Parliament of Ireland," broke out into fierce invective against the policy pursued systematically by England towards Ireland since the Union, and said that treachery and baseness had marked every phase of Irish legislation up to the period of the passing of the Coercion Bill, which measure he said, if introduced into any other country in Europe, would so raise the indignation of the people that it would cost the sovereign his head. He wound up his subject by declaring in favour of a repeal of the legislative union as the only means of redressing Ireland's many wrongs. During the lecture he was vociferously applauded, principally by the young men present, while others were demonstrative in their condemnation. Several stood up and left the hall, among them the garrison chaplain. The Dean of Limerick, who presided, at the conclusion of the lecture expressed in unmeasured terms his disapproval of the Rev. Mr. McCutchin's views.

AN APPEAL FOR SHETLAND.

For several months past the attention of the British public has been called to the condition of the peasantry in the Shetland Isles. The northern shore of Unst, the most northern portion of Great Britain, is seventy miles further north than Cape Farewell, the southern point of Greenland, and the climate being ungenial, it is with difficulty and uncertainty that the Shetlanders can raise crops on their small plots of land. From north to south the islands are about sixty miles in extent, with an area of less than half the county of Cornwall; and so deeply is the land indented with fiords, or "voes," that the coast line is more than 300 miles in length. The inhabitants depend chiefly for support on fishing, and the produce of their land. Their general character is marked by industry and temperance. The harvest of 1868 was defective, and the catch of fish very scanty, causing much destitution during the winter of 1868-9. Some help was afforded last winter and spring by supplying food for immediate relief, and corn and potatoes for seed. Again the harvest was unfavourable in 1869; heavy and repeated storms of wind, hail, and snow beat down and threshed out the corn before it was ripe or cut. The grain saved was not more than the seed sown, and so damaged as to be unfit for food or seed. Much disaster and disappointment also attended the fishing; and now the condition of this locality, always one of poverty, is intensified to a state bordering on starvation; and the destitution is greater than has been known for more than twenty years. It is chiefly in the northern portion that this extreme distress prevails. In some of the southern parts the harvest was earlier and better, and the fishing more successful.

The committee having charge of the Shetland Relief Fund have received abundant evidence from ministers of religion, merchants, and schoolmasters, and more than twenty letters, all worthy of credit, completely establishing the fact of wide-spread and deep distress, requiring that an appeal for aid should be extensively circulated, and meet with a generous response, to avert the calamity of famine fever and overwhelming distress. From among the many letters received the following is an extract from a communication sent by the Rev. James Frazer, Independent minister, dated March 17:—

The facts of the case are these: the growing season all through 1869 was the most unfavourable ever remembered in these islands. The storm of wind and hail came on the 13th October, and continued with more or less violence for nearly a fortnight. When the storm came on, some few of the people had cut down their whole crop, some one-half, and some scarcely any at all. All uncut lay exposed to storm and hail all the time I have named; and those who had the whole or greater part so exposed, have been very poorly fed all the winter, because what remained in it was unfit for food. Potatoes, which is a principal article of food in Shetland, did not grow this season to any perfection, and what did grow, was sorely wasted with the disease which has been in these islands since 1840, and which a continuance of wet weather seems specially to favour. There is considerable difference even in Shetland in the crop becoming ready for the sickle. Some have a little more or less of bere (a kind of barley). It is ready before oats, and did not suffer from the hail. Some places are more exposed to the sun, and come faster to maturity than others; and I believe the islands of Unst and Yell have little bere in their crops, and are generally later than many other places. 1st. In the case of some tenants, the cows they have are already sold and their price eaten; and they, with the apparent owner, entirely at the will of the party who advanced that supply. 2nd. When a Shetland small farmer or crofter parts with his few cows, he is done. After that he must remove to Lerwick, or come on the parochial board, or

he may take both as two steps in his downward progress. I wish it were possible to get a Government inquiry into the state of these islands. The cry of distress coming from them is becoming so frequent, that it is time something were done to ascertain the cause. The present is an exceptional year. My memory carries me back over a period of upwards of forty years, but *nothing like this in the failure of crops I never saw*. But few years have passed of late without a call to the benevolent to meet some case or cases of distress in these islands, arguing the existence of a state of things that ought not to exist.

The Shetland Relief Committee have forwarded already to the northern part of Shetland, corn and potatoes for seed to the extent of about 5000l., and supplies of food at a cost of about 2000l. Amongst the contributors to the fund being raised by them are the Earl of Zetland, Mr. Joseph Pease, Darlington, Sir Titus Salt, Bart., Sir F. Crossley, M.P., Mr. A. Backhouse, Mr. G. Sturge, Mr. W. Pollard. Should a larger fund be contributed than is required for present necessities, it is proposed to appropriate the balance to the promotion of emigration. Contributions for the fund may be forwarded to the Treasurer, Thomas Hodgkin, Esq., banker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to whom Post Office orders should be made payable; or to Dimsdale and Co., bankers, Cornhill, London, for the "Shetland Relief Fund."

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 13th, 1870.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons met at half-past two o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the Prime Minister announced that it should at its rising adjourn for the Easter holidays till Monday, the 25th instant. Sir Wilfrid Lawson called attention to the serious public injury which had been caused by the delay in introducing the Licensing Bill, and urged upon the House the imperative necessity for dealing with the question, which he regarded as more important than either the Irish Land Bill or the Education Bill, during the present session. Sir H. SELWIN-IBERTSON differed from the member for Carlisle as to the proper course to be pursued with regard to this matter, and expressed a confident opinion that if the Government did not see their way to passing the Licensing Bill during the present session, it would be better that it should not be laid upon the table. This conviction was shared by Mr. B. OSBORNE, who urged the Premier rather to diminish than add to the measures before the House, and declared his readiness to sacrifice any measures—even Education and the Ballot—to secure the passing of the Irish Land Bill, which he perceived was in great danger from the open opposition of the Conservatives, and the "inconvenient support" of gentlemen who had been "judge-advocates and things of that sort" upon the Ministerial benches. Mr. BRUCE did not in terms abandon all idea of introducing his Licensing Bill this year; but by his allusion to "the earliest day next session," he clearly indicated that he entertained only the very slightest hope of being able to do so, and distinctly declared that if the bill could not be thoroughly discussed and completely understood it would be better that it should not be produced. He could not but regard the Education Bill as more important than the Licensing Bill, and was, therefore, determined to do nothing to interfere with the progress of that measure. Mr. HOPE thanked the Home Secretary for the assurance that the Government intend to persevere with the Education Bill, and promised that in the performance of that task they would receive the support of the Opposition. Catching at this assurance, Mr. MUNDELLA declared that if the promise it involved was to be redeemed, a very different course must be pursued than that which had been adopted with regard to the Irish Land Bill by some "weak-kneed and timid" members on his own side of the House, and by factious ones on the other. He was especially severe upon the course pursued by Lord Elcho, whose speeches he described as an echo of the canter of the horse described by Mr. Tennyson which went "Proputty, proputty, proputty"; and called upon the members of the Liberal party to give a hearty and unanimous support to the Ministers in urging the Land Bill through the House. To these observations the noble member for Haddingtonshire replied by sneering at Mr. Mundella's capacity, with his two years' experience in the House, to lecture himself who had sat there for twenty-eight years and had worked out his own independence; and asserting that that gentleman's qualification for a seat in Parliament was founded upon a claim to have invented a system of conciliation between employers and workmen which was proved to have existed in the Potteries for twenty years before he discovered it. At some length the noble lord defended the course which he had pursued with reference to the Irish Land Bill; but Mr. GLADSTONE, who, after "the barren and unprofitable discussion" of last Friday, had hoped that they had for the present heard the last of the subject, declined to enter into this controversy; and, while admitting that the Govern-

ment had undertaken to do too much during the present season, reminded hon. members that this had been done to meet their wishes; and pointed out that the credit of the House itself as well as that of the Government was involved in the redemption as far as possible of the promises of legislation which had been given. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON generally defended the course pursued by the Opposition against the charges of the member for Sheffield, and assured the House that when Parliament reassembled after the vacation, the Conservative party would offer no factious opposition to the Land Bill, and would seek to place no unreasonable obstacle in the way of its progress. After a short conversation, in the course of which Mr. P. A. TAYLOR protested against the House having any holidays at all, the motion for the adjournment was adopted.

Some time was occupied in giving notices of motions with reference to business which is to come before the House after Easter; and then the report of the Budget resolutions was received and agreed to, Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE complaining that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not dealt with the injustices and inequalities of the house duty; Mr. MACFIE asking for a modification of the arrangements as to the drawback allowed on sugar; Mr. MORLEY seeking the return of some of the duty already paid upon sugar, according to the old scale; and an appeal being made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce some discrimination into the method of levying the duty upon carrying fire-arms. Mr. MACFIE rose to move the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the Patent Laws, but before he had made much progress with his remarks the House was counted out.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

The Ministerial crisis in France continues. Strenuous efforts are being made to retain M. Daru in the Cabinet.

The report of the Committee of the Senate on the *Senatus Consultum* was brought up yesterday. On the most important points the committee are at one with the Ministry and the Emperor. They regard the right of appeal to the people as essentially inherent to a democratic Government, and consider that the ratification of the *Senatus Consultum* by a plebiscite is the natural order of things. They reject the suggestion that the senators should be elected by universal suffrage as inconsistent with monarchical institutions and the Conservative function of the Senate. Perhaps the most important suggestion made by the committee is as to Article XV., that the judges should be irremovable. The Senate adopted the report of the committee unanimously. It is said that the Council of Ministers have decided to take the vote of the people on two points; first, the hereditary succession of the Imperial dynasty, and secondly, the democratic reforms. Demonstrations against the plebiscite are being organised. The Emperor remains inflexible on the subject.

According to a telegram from Rome, dated Monday, the Vatican has come to the decision, after consulting the Spanish bishops on the subject, that the clergy of Spain cannot take the oath of fidelity to the Constitution. It is announced in the same telegram that M. Banneville, the bearer of a note from the French Government, and which has, it is said, received the approval of other Catholic Powers, has arrived in Rome.

Lopez is dead, and the war in Paraguay is at an end. This news was brought by the Brazilian mail-steamer which arrived at Liverpool yesterday. Our latest previous advices were that Lopez had invaded Matto Grosso, and surprised and defeated General Camara, who had retired on Concepcion. It appears that Camara subsequently advanced from Concepcion, and defeated Lopez at Aquibana. He died fighting, and the remnant of his army were made prisoners. These tidings caused great rejoicings throughout Brazil.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to Mark-lane this morning, the receipts of wheat from Essex and Kent have been only moderate. Nevertheless the demand for both red and white produce has ruled heavy, at about the rates current on Monday. There has been a good allow of foreign wheat on the stands. The trade has been quiet, at late quotations. Moderate supplies of barley have been on offer. Very little business has been doing, at previous quotations. Malt has sold slowly, on former terms. The market has been fairly supplied with oats, for which there was a moderate request, at late currencies. Beans and peas have been dull but firm. Flour has changed hands quietly.

ARRIVALS THIS WEEK.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Flour.
English & Scotch	520	200	670	—	—
Irish	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign	7,430	22,193	—	13,840	270 shs.
					14,810 bbls.
					Maize, 10,580 qrs.

COMPARATIVE QUANTITIES AND PRICES OF GRAIN.
For the week ending April 9. For the corresponding week last year.

	Qrs.	Av. s. d.		Qrs.	Av. s. d.
Wheat	59,869	42 8	Wheat	50,872	47 0
Barley	21,452	34 11	Barley	12,271	44 6
Oats	4,376	20 9	Oats	3,060	26 8

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1870.

SUMMARY.

On Thursday, and at a morning sitting on Friday, the House of Commons was engaged in considering the Irish Land Bill in Committee. Very little progress was made. On Thursday, however, Mr. Gladstone announced that the

Government would consent to some further modifications in the measure. They agree to limit the suspension of freedom of contract to twenty years, and to introduce a number of changes for the more effectual protection of the landlords, with which Sir John Gray on behalf of the Irish Liberals, expressed great dissatisfaction. The Premier's concessions did not, however, facilitate the progress of the Bill, or disarm its opponents. An amendment by Mr. W. Fowler, one of the Liberal members for Cambridge, excepting all holdings above 50l. from the operation of Clause 3, was pressed to a division, against the advice of Sir Roundell Palmer, who was favourable to it, and rejected by a majority of only thirty-two, several Liberals voting against the Government. Encouraged by this comparative success at the day sitting on Friday, the Tory opponents of the Bill, headed by Mr. Headlam, raised anew several points already discussed, and a speech by Lord Claude Hamilton against time, brought the sitting to a close at seven o'clock, without the third clause having been adopted.

The obstructive tactics of the Tory party were the topic of severe remarks by Mr. Osborne and Mr. Mundella when the House met yesterday, to which Mr. Gladstone responded in a very moderate speech, expressing the hope that mutual patience and self-command would prevent any unnecessary delay. Sir John Pakington, on behalf of the Opposition, responded in a similar spirit, expressing his hope that everything like vexatious delay would be avoided, and that when the House re-assembled after the holidays the Bill would make as rapid progress as was consistent with the attention which it no doubt required from both sides of the House, and from men of all shades of opinion. This is a fair promise, if the members of the Conservative party can be induced to adhere to it. The sitting closed with a count out, and the House stands adjourned to Monday the 25th inst.

Before the House of Commons separated yesterday, several members, including Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Mundella, and Sir John Pakington, strongly urged that the Education Bill should be pushed forward. Mr. Hope benevolently offering every facility on the part of the Opposition. The measure will not be greatly helped by the demonstration at St. James's Hall on Friday night, under Lord Shaftesbury's auspices, in support of denominational education. His lordship repudiates time-table conscience clauses, and objects to any separation of religious and secular education. It will be seen that the petition of more than five thousand Nonconformist ministers presented to the House of Commons last week, "asks in the name of religious liberty," as the *Daily News* says, "for those very amendments which the Friday night's meeting denounced in the interests of what is called 'religious liberty in education.'" Mr. Gladstone has received at the hands of a deputation a protest against the religious clauses of the Bill signed by the same ministers, and has promised to give it due consideration. There is no mistake now as to the opinions of the vast majority of Nonconformists on the subject, notwithstanding the Marquis of Salisbury's belief in their divisions. As our Liberal contemporary (who has so ably and strenuously advocated the recognition of the principle of unsectarian teaching) remarks:—"The vast majority of the Liberals in the House of Commons have in their opposition to the ecclesiastical features of Mr. Forster's Bill, not only the approval of the political sections of the Liberal party in the country, but the cordial and united support of the religious sections. The Nonconformists by overwhelming majorities are everywhere demanding that national education shall be thoroughly unsectarian."

Mr. Newdegate's proposed committee of inquiry into the increase and management of the English convents has not yet been appointed. His motion, late on Friday night, to relegate the nomination to the Committee of Selection gave rise to a stormy and discreditable scene. Mr. Cogan moved that the order be discharged; and the contest between the two parties lasted till three o'clock on Saturday morning, when Mr. Newdegate was obliged to succumb to the tactics of his opponent, and the Select Committee was not nominated. The *Times* recommends the Catholics for their own sakes to agree to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry, composed of trustworthy persons, with power to take evidence on oath; but the suggestion is scorned. The English Catholic aristocracy have held a great meeting, the Duke of Norfolk presiding, to protest against the inspection of conventual and monastic institutions; though inspection of some kind is claimed and carried out by every Catholic Government of Europe.

There seems to be a decided lull in Irish crime. Fenians and apparently Ribbonmen are in wholesome dread of the Peace Preservation Act. No district has yet been proclaimed, and the signs of panic among the peacefully-disposed population are passing away. The worst feature of Irish news is the readiness of the Protestant Tories, reckless of consequences, to make common cause with the Nationalists. Thus for Longford county, where Captain Greville Nugent has been unseated on petition, owing to the terrorism exercised by the priests on his behalf, a Mr. Harman has come forward as a Conservative-Repeal candidate, and although he represents the landed interest, his claims are strongly supported by the Fenian press. The Irish Tories oppose the Land Bill because it would prevent the abuse of the landlord powers; the tenant-farmers sulkily stand aloof and denounce Mr. Gladstone; the Nationalists eagerly incite both to disaffection. Ireland is indeed the "great difficulty" of British statesmen.

A new Government has at length been formed at Vienna based upon the principle of compromise with the several nationalities. Count Potocki and his colleagues, as well as the Chancellor, Count Beust, are favourable to the policy of decentralisation. But they will encounter formidable opposition. Both Houses of the Reichsrath have adopted an address to the Emperor declaring that they "remain faithful to the Constitution, and would view any further separation of portions of the Monarchy from the whole in order to create fresh States as a matter of the gravest consequence, considering the already existing dualism, and as both dangerous to the political position of Austria and opposed to the real interests of the Austrian nationalities." The Reichsrath has been prorogued prior to dissolution. Whether new elections will result in a majority favourable to the programme of the new Government is very doubtful.

There is a little cloud in the west which we devoutly hope may blow over. We do not refer to the Red River question, because there the malcontents are a mere handful, and at the first appearance of such mild weather as will make the way practicable, they will succumb. The recent message of President Grant to Congress is of a different nature. Until lately there was a Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Canada, which regulated amongst other things the respective fishing rights of the two nations. That treaty lapsed, and the Congress refusing to renew it, complications have arisen in the fishing waters, especially on the Banks of Newfoundland. The President has accordingly instructed the commanders of the American fleet in the waters of Canada, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia, to give special attention to cases arising under the change in the British laws relating to the fisheries, and to prevent either any infractions by United States' citizens of the first article of the Treaty of 1818, or any illegal interference with the pursuits of American fishermen. This step suggests the possibility of collision, the results of which might be very serious—our trans-Atlantic cousins being resolute in keeping open the Alabama grudge, and anything but cordial to their neighbours on the other side of the St. Lawrence.

THE PRESENT STATE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

AFTER sitting for nine weeks, Parliament has risen for the Easter holidays. There are few members of the House of Commons—not even Mr. Gladstone, who is proverbially greedy of work—who do not hail with satisfaction the promised ten days' rest. The truth is, that, what with the original plans of the Prime Minister, and what with the variations and additions imposed by the temper of the House, or by the course of events, the Representative Branch of the Legislature has had driving work of it for some time past. At its commencement, the Session, it is true, proceeded leisurely and smoothly for upwards of a fortnight. Measures even the most important could only be introduced, the discussion of their principle being deferred, as a matter of course, to the second reading. Hence it has been that, in the Lower House, the business set down on the Notice Paper for each night was got through in the first three weeks at an earlier hour than usual; and hence, also, the comparatively little debate which characterised the sittings of the House until about the beginning of March. But it must be freely confessed that the comparatively easy time which the Commons then enjoyed has been dearly paid for by its subsequent engagements. For considerably above a month its sittings have been prolonged beyond the average into a late period of the night. It has had several morning sittings, which have

hardly ever before commenced before Easter. Once it has met on Saturday. The assiduity and diligence of the House consequently are placed beyond all reach of dispute; and one might reasonably suppose that, considering the lateness of Easter this year, and, in connection with it, the industry of the House, the business of the Session would be in an unusually forward state.

The very reverse of this is the case; the promise which brightened the first days of the Session has been displaced by a pervading gloom. Neither in substance, nor in mode, has the work of the House of Commons realised early expectations. For instance, there were few who, at the commencement of the Session, anticipated that a Coercion Bill for Ireland would be imperatively demanded by her troubled condition, or that, having become necessary, it would take upwards of a week in getting through the House of Commons. We might go on to mention other unexpected incidents, the demand of which upon the patience of the House, although met with customary courtesy, has tried both its physical and its moral powers of endurance. The result is, that the members of the House separate for their holidays with a much less satisfactory feeling in regard to the work they have accomplished than has been usual with them. Their labours have been more severe, and the result less satisfactory, than we can remember. The Estimates are exceedingly backward. No important legislative matter, except the Bill for the preservation of peace in Ireland, has yet received the concurrent sanction of the three estates of the Realm, and, what is most unpromising of all, the temper of the House has not by any means been improved by its close attention to business, nor is it now so patriotically disposed as it was during the month of February.

We believe that the failure, which has been already noticed by the British public, and which has become more conspicuous during the past week than it was before, is due in part to that overcrowding of the Ministerial programme with measures of considerable magnitude, which appeared to be based on the assumption that the physical strength of members of Parliament may be played upon to any extent without serious disadvantage. We don't know what party is to be blamed for this, or whether any party is to be regarded as open to censure. The representatives of the principles of political progress initiated by the last Reform Bill, were naturally anxious to place as many measures of reform, social and political, upon the Statute Book, as the general character of the times would admit of. They were, perhaps, over eager to avail themselves of the flood tide. They were too sanguine in their estimate of what a deliberative assembly, so constituted as to reflect the popular mind, could achieve in the way of legislation within a given time. Upwards of a third of the members of the House of Commons are new to their work, and cherish exalted notions, perhaps, of what is practicable when men are in earnest. Last Session rather encouraged by its results this hopeful, if it were not fallacious, notion of the omnipotence of Parliament. It is unquestionable that the spirit of its own supporters slowly but surely took possession of the Government. Its bill of fare at the commencement of the Session was full to repletion. Its projected measures were too large and too numerous to allow of being successfully dealt with in a single Session, unless party spirit had fully died out. We may say that the House expected, and that the Cabinet promised, an impossible sum-total of good things. The Queen's Speech, as it was subsequently amplified by Ministerial announcements, pointed to results to be aimed at, far exceeding in number and in breadth the likelihoods, not to say the possibilities, within human cognisance.

Well, that has happened which might reasonably have been expected. The Government has not gained the point which it thought itself all but sure to gain, and the House, misled by its own enthusiasm, has experienced a disagreeable disappointment of its own confident hopes. In the first place, it made light of the real difficulties which encompassed its policy. In the second place, it gave wider licence than was meet to its own propensity to talk; and, in the third place, it found that the subordination of a party to a patriotic purpose was much more easily resolved upon than carried into effect. The first great measure of the Session was the Irish Land Bill, the second was the Elementary Education Bill. Both have met with unanticipated obstructions, and each will suffer damage on account of its having been brought forward in conjunction with the other. The Land Bill, besides having been originally better adapted than the Education Bill to meet and satisfy the

varied aspects of the question to which it relates, claims precedence on account of its more urgent importance, and will, no doubt, after many wearisome discussions, be passed through all its stages in both Houses. The Elementary Education Bill may be said to have been thrust prematurely upon the decision of Parliament. Public opinion was not ripe for it, though it was rapidly tending towards maturity; the goodly fruit has been pinched with the view, if possible, of antedating its perfection. It has done no good for itself, and it has stood in the way of the Bill which had precedence of it. We fear it may have done worse, by crowding out the minor measures—if minor they can be called—which were promised for the later part of the Session—the University Tests Bill, the Licensing Bill, and the Bill for regulating the mode of election in municipal and Parliamentary boroughs. Still, it is useless to complain. Over-confidence is not oftentimes the besetting sin of generalship. The experience of the last two months will probably teach some members of the Government a much-needed lesson of modesty and patience, and, we should say, the sooner the acquisition is displayed before the public, the better will be the result for all parties.

But, after all, the House of Commons is itself to blame for the unusually backward state of public business. There is one thing which it can do towards extricating the legislative machine from the mire into which it has sunk, which it has failed to do throughout the present Session. It can restrain its own superfluous talk, and it can insist upon some sort of subordination of the rank and file to the leaders. The truth is, the House of Commons is getting into a perfect jungle of projected amendments to the two great Bills of the Session, and it can do nothing better during Easter than make up its mind to withdraw, as soon as possible, from the dangerous position to which it has advanced. Mr. Gladstone appears to be heart-sick, and no wonder. In the main, he has to fight a single-handed contest, and the blows which come from behind him have hitherto been more mischievous than those which have assailed him in front. Let us hope that reflection and rest will bring about some improvement of temper in all parties. The present state of public business hardly warrants the gloomy forebodings which it seems to have excited; but, unquestionably, it is extremely discouraging, and might, unless greatly changed for the better, entail political consequences of the gravest character. It is just one of those cases in which the old proverb applies, "A stitch in time saves nine"; or, on the other hand, "The beginning of strife is like the letting out of waters."

MR. LOWE'S SECOND BUDGET.

THE financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday, for the most part coincides with popular expectation. Mr. Lowe has produced an unimpeachable Budget, destitute of surprises, but lightening the general pressure of taxation, and exhibiting in its details the skill, grasp, and forethought of an accomplished financier. It is pleasant to find simplicity of aim and scientific treatment so admirably combined. To remit taxes when he has a large surplus to dispose of is easy work for a Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Mr. Lowe has worthily followed in the footsteps of Mr. Gladstone by acting upon three sound principles in the preparation of his Budget—the equitable remission of both direct and indirect taxation, the clearing away of financial anomalies while reducing the cost of collecting the revenue, and the creation of a solid foundation for future operations.

Mr. Lowe, as we indicated last week, has been altogether fortunate during the past financial year, and the official explanations given in the early part of his elaborate speech were full of instruction. The Abyssinian account is all but practically closed, and it is somewhat difficult to believe that some 8,800,000*l.* has been paid out of income to meet the outlay for this costly war, with so little inconvenience to the British taxpayer, and so little interruption of the work of financial reform. The increase in income on the past year has been nearly two millions over the estimate, in consequence of the elasticity of the revenue. Mr. Lowe is a little disappointed in respect to the Post Office, which only showed an increase of 10,000*l.*, instead of 220,000*l.*; but he has a satisfactory explanation of the unexpected falling off in the Customs. The truth is, that Mining Lane has been paralysed during the last quarter in consequence of the possibility that there might be "a clean sweep of taxes on articles for the breakfast-table." The

Customs show a decrease of 121,000*l.* on the year, and 308,000*l.* on the quarter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer anticipates an immediate rebound, which will be to the advantage of the new year's revenue, though he puts it down at a very moderate figure in his estimate. In the Excise about one-half the increase (400,000*l.*) is due to the increased consumption of British spirits, and one-seventh to the greater use of tobacco. Mr. Lowe shows that total abolition of duties does not necessarily involve an equivalent loss to the general revenue. Last year he parted with the shilling duty on corn. Though bread is now cheap he does not attribute the fact altogether to that financial operation. But as he remarks—"The abolition of the duty has had a considerable share in giving elasticity to the revenue by setting loose the money that would otherwise have been spent in buying the food of the people." At all events, we have been inundated with foreign corn to the great benefit of the consumer—"There were in the country during the last six months of 1869, 10,500,000 cwt. of wheat more than in the corresponding period of last year, 4,500,000 cwt. more of Indian corn, and 2,000,000 cwt. more of flour." Mr. Lowe has surrendered a great part of the fire insurance duty, but the other items under the head "Stamps," have exhibited a remarkable increase. He is so enamoured of his scheme for anticipating the income and assessed taxes and changing the mode of collection, that he seems almost to regret that "the operation will never be repeated," and even ventures to assume that the new system "is not unpopular."

After all, the expenditure rather than the revenue is the true test of statesmanlike honesty and capacity. In this respect all Tory Governments invariably fail, and supplementary estimates are with them the rule and not the exception. Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated that his colleagues would require 68,408,000*l.* They have spent nearly a million less than that amount. They saved alike upon the army, navy, and civil service estimates, though a Government not conscientiously economical would have been strongly tempted to go to the length of their tether. No better proof could be afforded of the thorough retrenching policy of Mr. Gladstone's Administration.

This saving at both ends has placed the Chancellor of the Exchequer in an enviable position. He has a clear surplus of 4,397,000 to give away. He divides his favours with great impartiality. But Mr. Lowe's first proposal is to augment his balance by substituting for the present game certificate a one pound licence to carry a gun, which he thinks, besides yielding a better revenue, will tend to check the increasing tendency to carry arms, especially revolvers. "There is," he justly remarks, "a retrograde practice and tone of feeling growing up among us with reference to the carrying of deadly weapons," which legislation may help to check. A number of unproductive or vexatious "licences" are to be repealed. In fact, Mr. Lowe is weeding the Excise imposts as his financial master simplified the Customs duties. Reductions are made in various stamps, and the stamp laws are to be consolidated. The promised boon to newspapers is to take effect on the 1st of October next, after which date the present penny stamp will be abolished, and all papers under six ounces be carried through the post for a halfpenny, and other printed matter at the same rate for two ounces. A tax of one per cent. on the total gross traffic of railways instead of the present discriminating railway passengers duty of five per cent., is the last operation proposed in connection with the Excise.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1870.

SUMMARY.

On Thursday, and at a morning sitting on Friday, the House of Commons was engaged in considering the Irish Land Bill in Committee. Very little progress was made. On Thursday, however, Mr. Gladstone announced that the

Government would consent to some further modifications in the measure. They agree to limit the suspension of freedom of contract to twenty years, and to introduce a number of changes for the more effectual protection of the landlords, with which Sir John Gray on behalf of the Irish Liberals, expressed great dissatisfaction. The Premier's concessions did not, however, facilitate the progress of the Bill, or disarm its opponents. An amendment by Mr. W. Fowler, one of the Liberal members for Cambridge, excepting all holdings above 50% from the operation of Clause 3, was pressed to a division, against the advice of Sir Roundell Palmer, who was favourable to it, and rejected by a majority of only thirty-two, several Liberals voting against the Government. Encouraged by this comparative success at the day sitting on Friday, the Tory opponents of the Bill, headed by Mr. Headlam, raised anew several points already discussed, and a speech by Lord Claude Hamilton against time, brought the sitting to a close at seven o'clock, without the third clause having been adopted.

The obstructive tactics of the Tory party were the topic of severe remarks by Mr. Osborne and Mr. Mundella when the House met yesterday, to which Mr. Gladstone responded in a very moderate speech, expressing the hope that mutual patience and self-command would prevent any unnecessary delay. Sir John Pakington, on behalf of the Opposition, responded in a similar spirit, expressing his hope that everything like vexatious delay would be avoided, and that when the House re-assembled after the holidays the Bill would make as rapid progress as was consistent with the attention which it no doubt required from both sides of the House, and from men of all shades of opinion. This is a fair promise, if the members of the Conservative party can be induced to adhere to it. The sitting closed with a count out, and the House stands adjourned to Monday the 25th inst.

Before the House of Commons separated yesterday, several members, including Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Mundella, and Sir John Pakington, strongly urged that the Education Bill should be pushed forward, Mr. Hope benevolently offering every facility on the part of the Opposition. The measure will not be greatly helped by the demonstration at St. James's Hall on Friday night, under Lord Shaftesbury's auspices, in support of denominational education. His lordship repudiates time-table conscience clauses, and objects to any separation of religious and secular education. It will be seen that the petition of more than five thousand Nonconformist ministers presented to the House of Commons last week, "asks in the name of religious liberty," as the *Daily News* says, "for those very amendments which the Friday night's meeting denounced in the interests of what is called 'religious liberty in education.'" Mr. Gladstone has received at the hands of a deputation a protest against the religious clauses of the Bill signed by the same ministers, and has promised to give it due consideration. There is no mistake now as to the opinions of the vast majority of Nonconformists on the subject, notwithstanding the Marquis of Salisbury's belief in their divisions. As our Liberal contemporary (who has so ably and strenuously advocated the recognition of the principle of unsectarian teaching) remarks:—"The vast majority of the Liberals in the House of Commons have in their opposition to the ecclesiastical features of Mr. Forster's Bill, not only the approval of the political sections of the Liberal party in the country, but the cordial and united support of the religious sections. The Nonconformists by overwhelming majorities are everywhere demanding that national education shall be thoroughly unsectarian."

Mr. Newdegate's proposed committee of inquiry into the increase and management of the English convents has not yet been appointed. His motion, late on Friday night, to relegate the nomination to the Committee of Selection gave rise to a stormy and discreditable scene. Mr. Cogan moved that the order be discharged; and the contest between the two parties lasted till three o'clock on Saturday morning, when Mr. Newdegate was obliged to succumb to the tactics of his opponent, and the Select Committee was not nominated. The *Times* recommends the Catholics for their own sakes to agree to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry, composed of trustworthy persons, with power to take evidence on oath; but the suggestion is scorned. The English Catholic aristocracy have held a great meeting, the Duke of Norfolk presiding, to protest against the inspection of conventual and monastic institutions; though inspection of some kind is claimed and carried out by every Catholic Government of Europe.

There seems to be a decided lull in Irish crime. Fenians and apparently Ribbonmen are in wholesome dread of the Peace Preservation Act. No district has yet been proclaimed, and the signs of panic among the peacefully-disposed population are passing away. The worst feature of Irish news is the readiness of the Protestant Tories, reckless of consequences, to make common cause with the Nationalists. Thus for Longford county, where Captain Greville Nugent has been unseated on petition, owing to the terrorism exercised by the priests on his behalf, a Mr. Harman has come forward as a Conservative-Repeal candidate, and although he represents the landed interest, his claims are strongly supported by the Fenian press. The Irish Tories oppose the Land Bill because it would prevent the abuse of the landlord powers; the tenant-farmers sulkily stand aloof and denounce Mr. Gladstone; the Nationalists eagerly incite both to disaffection. Ireland is indeed the "great difficulty" of British statesmen.

A new Government has at length been formed at Vienna based upon the principle of compromise with the several nationalities. Count Potocki and his colleagues, as well as the Chancellor, Count Beust, are favourable to the policy of decentralisation. But they will encounter formidable opposition. Both Houses of the Reichsrath have adopted an address to the Emperor declaring that they "remain faithful to the Constitution, and would view any further separation of portions of the Monarchy from the whole in order to create fresh States as a matter of the gravest consequence, considering the already existing dualism, and as both dangerous to the political position of Austria and opposed to the real interests of the Austrian nationalities." The Reichsrath has been prorogued prior to dissolution. Whether new elections will result in a majority favourable to the programme of the new Government is very doubtful.

There is a little cloud in the west which we devoutly hope may blow over. We do not refer to the Red River question, because there the malcontents are a mere handful, and at the first appearance of such mild weather as will make the way practicable, they will succumb. The recent message of President Grant to Congress is of a different nature. Until lately there was a Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Canada, which regulated amongst other things the respective fishing rights of the two nations. That treaty lapsed, and the Congress refusing to renew it, complications have arisen in the fishing waters, especially on the Banks of Newfoundland. The President has accordingly instructed the commanders of the American fleet in the waters of Canada, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia, to give special attention to cases arising under the change in the British laws relating to the fisheries, and to prevent either any infractions by United States' citizens of the first article of the Treaty of 1818, or any illegal interference with the pursuits of American fishermen. This step suggests the possibility of collision, the results of which might be very serious—our trans-Atlantic cousins being resolute in keeping open the Alabama grudge, and anything but cordial to their neighbours on the other side of the St. Lawrence.

THE PRESENT STATE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

AFTER sitting for nine weeks, Parliament has risen for the Easter holidays. There are few members of the House of Commons—not even Mr. Gladstone, who is proverbially greedy of work—who do not hail with satisfaction the promised ten days' rest. The truth is, that, what with the original plans of the Prime Minister, and what with the variations and additions imposed by the temper of the House, or by the course of events, the Representative Branch of the Legislature has had driving work of it for some time past. At its commencement, the Session, it is true, proceeded leisurely and smoothly for upwards of a fortnight. Measures even the most important could only be introduced, the discussion of their principle being deferred, as a matter of course, to the second reading. Hence it has been that, in the Lower House, the business set down on the Notice Paper for each night was got through in the first three weeks at an earlier hour than usual; and hence, also, the comparatively little debate which characterised the sittings of the House until about the beginning of March. But it must be freely confessed that the comparatively easy time which the Commons then enjoyed has been dearly paid for by its subsequent engagements. For considerably above a month its sittings have been prolonged beyond the average into a late period of the night. It has had several morning sittings, which have

hardly ever before commenced before Easter. Once it has met on Saturday. The assiduity and diligence of the House consequently are placed beyond all reach of dispute; and one might reasonably suppose that, considering the lateness of Easter this year, and, in connection with it, the industry of the House, the business of the Session would be in an unusually forward state.

The very reverse of this is the case; the promise which brightened the first days of the Session has been displaced by a pervading gloom. Neither in substance, nor in mode, has the work of the House of Commons realised early expectations. For instance, there were few who, at the commencement of the Session, anticipated that a Coercion Bill for Ireland would be imperatively demanded by her troubled condition, or that, having become necessary, it would take upwards of a week in getting through the House of Commons. We might go on to mention other unexpected incidents, the demand of which upon the patience of the House, although met with customary courtesy, has tried both its physical and its moral powers of endurance. The result is, that the members of the House separate for their holidays with a much less satisfactory feeling in regard to the work they have accomplished than has been usual with them. Their labours have been more severe, and the result less satisfactory, than we can remember. The Estimates are exceedingly backward. No important legislative matter, except the Bill for the preservation of peace in Ireland, has yet received the concurrent sanction of the three estates of the Realm, and, what is most unpromising of all, the temper of the House has not by any means been improved by its close attention to business, nor is it now so patriotically disposed as it was during the month of February.

We believe that the failure, which has been already noticed by the British public, and which has become more conspicuous during the past week than it was before, is due in part to that overcrowding of the Ministerial programme with measures of considerable magnitude, which appeared to be based on the assumption that the physical strength of members of Parliament may be played upon to any extent without serious disadvantage. We don't know what party is to be blamed for this, or whether any party is to be regarded as open to censure. The representatives of the principles of political progress initiated by the last Reform Bill, were naturally anxious to place as many measures of reform, social and political, upon the Statute Book, as the general character of the times would admit of. They were, perhaps, over eager to avail themselves of the flood tide. They were too sanguine in their estimate of what a deliberative assembly, so constituted as to reflect the popular mind, could achieve in the way of legislation within a given time. Upwards of a third of the members of the House of Commons are new to their work, and cherish exalted notions, perhaps, of what is practicable when men are in earnest. Last Session rather encouraged by its results this hopeful, if it were not fallacious, notion of the omnipotence of Parliament. It is unquestionable that the spirit of its own supporters slowly but surely took possession of the Government. Its bill of fare at the commencement of the Session was full to repletion. Its projected measures were too large and too numerous to allow of being successfully dealt with in a single Session, unless party spirit had fully died out. We may say that the House expected, and that the Cabinet promised, an impossible sum-total of good things. The Queen's Speech, as it was subsequently amplified by Ministerial announcements, pointed to results to be aimed at, far exceeding in number and in breadth the likelihoods, not to say the possibilities, within human cognisance.

Well, that has happened which might reasonably have been expected. The Government has not gained the point which it thought itself all but sure to gain, and the House, misled by its own enthusiasm, has experienced a disagreeable disappointment of its own confident hopes. In the first place, it made light of the real difficulties which encompassed its policy. In the second place, it gave wider licence than was meet to its own propensity to talk; and, in the third place, it found that the subordination of a party to a patriotic purpose was much more easily resolved upon than carried into effect. The first great measure of the Session was the Irish Land Bill; the second was the Elementary Education Bill. Both have met with unanticipated obstructions, and each will suffer damage on account of its having been brought forward in conjunction with the other. The Land Bill, besides having been originally better adapted than the Education Bill to meet and satisfy the

varied aspects of the question to which it relates, claims precedence on account of its more urgent importance, and will, no doubt, after many wearisome discussions, be passed through all its stages in both Houses. The Elementary Education Bill may be said to have been thrust prematurely upon the decision of Parliament. Public opinion was not ripe for it, though it was rapidly tending towards maturity; the goodly fruit has been pinched with the view, if possible, of antedating its perfection. It has done no good for itself, and it has stood in the way of the Bill which had precedence of it. We fear it may have done worse, by crowding out the minor measures—if minor they can be called—which were promised for the later part of the Session—the University Tests Bill, the Licensing Bill, and the Bill for regulating the mode of election in municipal and Parliamentary boroughs. Still, it is useless to complain. Over-confidence is not oftentimes the besetting sin of generalship. The experience of the last two months will probably teach some members of the Government a much-needed lesson of modesty and patience, and, we should say, the sooner the acquisition is displayed before the public, the better will be the result for all parties.

But, after all, the House of Commons is itself to blame for the unusually backward state of public business. There is one thing which it can do towards extricating the legislative machine from the mire into which it has sunk, which it has failed to do throughout the present Session. It can restrain its own superfluous talk, and it can insist upon some sort of subordination of the rank and file to the leaders. The truth is, the House of Commons is getting into a perfect jungle of projected amendments to the two great Bills of the Session, and it can do nothing better during Easter than make up its mind to withdraw, as soon as possible, from the dangerous position to which it has advanced. Mr. Gladstone appears to be heart-sick, and no wonder. In the main, he has to fight a single-handed contest, and the blows which come from behind him have hitherto been more mischievous than those which have assailed him in front. Let us hope that reflection and rest will bring about some improvement of temper in all parties. The present state of public business hardly warrants the gloomy forebodings which it seems to have excited; but, unquestionably, it is extremely discouraging, and might, unless greatly changed for the better, entail political consequences of the gravest character. It is just one of those cases in which the old proverb applies, "A stitch in time saves nine"; or, on the other hand, "The beginning of strife is like the letting out of waters."

MR. LOWE'S SECOND BUDGET.

THE financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday, for the most part coincides with popular expectation. Mr. Lowe has produced an unimpeachable Budget, destitute of surprises, but lightening the general pressure of taxation, and exhibiting in its details the skill, grasp, and forethought of an accomplished financier. It is pleasant to find simplicity of aim and scientific treatment so admirably combined. To remit taxes when he has a large surplus to dispose of is easy work for a Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Mr. Lowe has worthily followed in the footsteps of Mr. Gladstone by acting upon three sound principles in the preparation of his Budget—the equitable remission of both direct and indirect taxation, the clearing away of financial anomalies while reducing the cost of collecting the revenue, and the creation of a solid foundation for future operations.

Mr. Lowe, as we indicated last week, has been altogether fortunate during the past financial year, and the official explanations given in the early part of his elaborate speech were full of instruction. The Abyssinian account is all but practically closed, and it is somewhat difficult to believe that some 8,800,000*l.* has been paid out of income to meet the outlay for this costly war, with so little inconvenience to the British taxpayer, and so little interruption of the work of financial reform. The increase in income on the past year has been nearly two millions over the estimate, in consequence of the elasticity of the revenue. Mr. Lowe is a little disappointed in respect to the Post Office, which only showed an increase of 10,000*l.*, instead of 220,000*l.*; but he has a satisfactory explanation of the unexpected falling off in the Customs. The truth is, that Mincing Lane has been paralysed during the last quarter in consequence of the possibility that there might be "a clean sweep of taxes on articles for the breakfast-table." The

Customs show a decrease of 121,000*l.* on the year, and 303,000*l.* on the quarter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer anticipates an immediate rebound, which will be to the advantage of the new year's revenue, though he puts it down at a very moderate figure in his estimate. In the Excise about one-half the increase (400,000*l.*) is due to the increased consumption of British spirits, and one-seventh to the greater use of tobacco. Mr. Lowe shows that total abolition of duties does not necessarily involve an equivalent loss to the general revenue. Last year he parted with the shilling duty on corn. Though bread is now cheap he does not attribute the fact altogether to that financial operation. But as he remarks—"The abolition of the duty has had a considerable share in giving elasticity to the revenue by setting loose the money that would otherwise have been spent in buying the food of the people." At all events, we have been inundated with foreign corn to the great benefit of the consumer—"There were in the country during the last six months of 1869, 10,500,000 cwt*s.* of wheat more than in the corresponding period of last year. 4,500,000 cwt*s.* more of Indian corn, and 2,000,000 cwt*s.* more of flour." Mr. Lowe has surrendered a great part of the fire insurance duty, but the other items under the head "Stamps," have exhibited a remarkable increase. He is so enamoured of his scheme for anticipating the income and assessed taxes and changing the mode of collection, that he seems almost to regret that "the operation will never be repeated," and even ventures to assume that the new system "is not unpopular!"

After all, the expenditure rather than the revenue is the true test of statesmanlike honesty and capacity. In this respect all Tory Governments invariably fail, and supplementary estimates are with them the rule and not the exception. Last year the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated that his colleagues would require 68,408,000*l.* They have spent nearly a million less than that amount. They saved alike upon the army, navy, and civil service estimates, though a Government not conscientiously economical would have been strongly tempted to go to the length of their tether. No better proof could be afforded of the thorough retrenching policy of Mr. Gladstone's Administration.

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190,000, but with a prospective gain to the revenue in 1885, when the annuities fall in, of 3,376,000, in a lump sum. The following is a birds-eye view of Mr. Lowe's financial proposals for the year 1870-71:—

Estimated revenue, 1870-71	£71,450,000
Estimated expenditure	67,113,000
Surplus	£4,337,000
Firearm tax	150,000
Total surplus	£4,487,000
Remission of taxes:	
Hawkers' licences	£16,000
Other licences	6,000
Stamps	50,000
Hail and cattle insurance	6,000
Impressed newspaper stamp	61,000
Other postal charges	125,000
Railway tax	103,000
Income tax (ld.)	1,250,000
Sugar duties	2,350,000
Total	£3,966,000
Interest on terminable annuities	190,000
	£4,156,000
Surplus	£331,000

With wondrous prophetic daring Mr. White sees "looming in the distance" a surplus of six millions for next April. But without anticipating what may happen within the long interval, it must be admitted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer exhibits great foresight in providing for future financial triumphs, as well as in trying to equalise and mitigate present public burdens. Without laying any claim to that sagacity which is undoubtedly his due, Mr. Lowe says the secret of all this success is "nothing on earth but economy." "I am sure," he adds, "that we cannot better discharge the trust reposed in us than by lightening as far as possible the burdens of our fellow subjects, and I hope, therefore, that the House will consider that it is not merely by talking of economy that these things are done, but that there are some things required of them as well as from those who are entrusted with the public expenditure—namely, to lay down to yourselves clearly and distinctly what is the legitimate province of government, and make a rule never to force anything beyond that." Such was the modest and weighty conclusion of a speech which embodies a skilful and equitable financial operation, and promises such substantial remissions of taxation as will further augment the popularity of Mr. Gladstone's Administration.

THE IMPERIAL PLEBISCITUM.

AN unexpected and very ominous political crisis has arisen in France, by means of which the Ollivier Cabinet has been apparently broken to pieces, and the cause of Constitutional Government placed under a cloud. The promised *Senatus Consultum* for sharing the prerogatives of the Senate in the initiation of organic changes with the Legislative Body, seemed to open up the prospect of a happy and final solution of the constitutional problem. The Emperor threw overboard the embarrassing claims of the Senate for the sake of his Ministers and their Liberal adherents, and they, in their turn, reluctantly consented to his wishes that the proposed changes should be ratified by a popular vote. But the new Constitution contained a provision that the chief of the State should retain the power of appealing to a Plebiscitum whenever he might deem it expedient. This claim would remove him from the position of a constitutional Sovereign, and retain for him autocratic influence. The Cabinet was irreconcilably divided in opinion on the subject. Seeing in this demand the possibility of the Emperor riding over the heads of his responsible Ministers and the Legislative Body, several members of the Government resolved to retire. M. Buffet, the Minister of Finance has actually resigned, and it is possible that Count Daru, who holds the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, will follow his example. His retirement would inevitably break up the Cabinet. M. Ollivier remains in office to carry out the Imperial behests, but, having forfeited the support of the Left Centre, he will be obliged to accept new colleagues from the adherents of personal government.

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LITERARY GARBAGE.

It has frequently been asserted, and with considerable truth and force, that it is almost impossible for a civilised nation to become possessed of any special social, or other advantage or benefit, without at the same time discovering the acquisition to be attended with serious drawbacks considerably impairing its value and practical utility. The existing condition of our cheap literature has sometimes been cited as a case in point. When Charles Knight and the Messrs. Chambers commenced, some forty years ago, their energetic struggle on behalf of cheap and wholesome literary food for the million, they were repeatedly told that their efforts would be completely thrown away, that the experiment so courageously begun by them would end in ignominious failure. The *Penny Satirist* might sell, but not the *Penny Magazine* or *Chambers's Journal*. The coarse and uneducated taste of the multitude would require food of a like low character. When, a few years afterwards, the shop-windows of the cheap booksellers began to be filled with rudely illustrated penny numbers of "Varney the Vampire, or the Feast of Blood"; "Ela the Outcast"; "Vileroy, or the Horrors of Zindorf Castle"; "Ada the Betrayed"; "The Death Grasp," and other equally sensational and exciting romances, with no less startling titles, it really seemed as if

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Of late years, however, a kind of revival in this particular species of literature has taken place, and penny numbers of illustrated novels are beginning to reappear in the shop windows. This is indirectly the result of the comparatively large circulation attained by a tale entitled, "Rose Mortimer, or the Ballet Girl's Revenge," and one or two others of a like character. These novels were of a most absurd and senseless character, but occasionally they contained scenes of a most infamous character, illustrated by cuts even more atrocious. Still, at all of old, the sale remains comparatively small, and with the view of forcing the circulation various expedients have been resorted to from time to time. Sometimes gaudily coloured pictures are presented gratis to purchasers; at others, tickets entitling the holders to participation in lotteries of various kinds are presented; but more frequently the attempt takes the form of an indirect appeal to the worst passions of the young readers. Hence the startling narratives of highwaymen and other criminals which have lately been so abundant amongst the younger members of our labouring population. Of the pernicious character of these there can be no question, but their circulation is far less extensive than is generally assumed, for cheap booksellers have a great aversion to retaining on hand unsaleable stocks of back numbers. Sometimes the want of popularity is so marked, that the sale of even a first number is insufficient to pay for paper and printing. The number of persons engaged in the trade is very small. All the penny numbers are issued from two or three wholesale houses in the metropolis, which consider them as a part only of their regular traffic, the trade not being sufficiently large to employ the resources of any one establishment. Not more than two or three artists are regularly employed in the preparation of the woodcuts, yet, limited as is the number, the trade is of a most precarious character. The number of tale-writers is about eight or nine. The remuneration obtained by these is ridiculously low, even for Grub-street. Yet more than one of these men can boast a University education, but an unfortunate predilection for gin-and-water has led them to thus prostitute their acquired talents. The tales are invariably written chapter by chapter as required. If they take well, the novels are continued so long as they can obtain a paying circulation. Sometimes a novel will run over 104 and even more weekly numbers at others it will become finished in less than a dozen weeks. Occasionally, when the falling circulation betrays the diminished interest entertained by the readers, the publisher will engage a fresh writer. In this manner as many as four or five persons have been employed on a single tale. For the principles of morality or good taste neither publishers, authors, or artists seem to have much respect. But they are obliged to defer to public opinion, as expressed by the action of the bookselling trade, and more than one novel of an admittedly immoral tendency has found its sale effectually stopped through the refusal of the wholesale trade to take it into stock.

The present number of these publications is about twenty, the weekly sale of each varying from a few hundreds to as many thousands. The readers are almost exclusively young persons, principally those engaged in manufacturing establishments. Shop-boys and milliners' apprentices are also extensive patrons of this species of literature, especially the more exciting narratives, such as "The Wild Boys

of London," "Bluekin," "Claude Duval," and so forth. At the present time the trade is in a far less prosperous condition than formerly, owing to the systematic manner in which the cheap illustrated periodicals, pressed closely by the cheap newspapers, are covering all the ground available. In fact, the penny newspapers are carrying everything before them, and experienced persons do not hesitate to declare that the days of penny novels and serials are over. But this opinion is evidently premature. Cheap works of fiction will always command readers among the young, especially those belonging to the labouring classes. With respect to the influence exercised by some of these penny tales over the minds of their readers, there can be no doubt of its highly pernicious character, yet, on the other hand, it must be remembered that many of these startling narratives often act as inducements leading the uneducated to acquire the art of reading, so that the evil is not wholly unmixed with good. Again, many of the scenes described, however vicious, are not worse than those with which many of the readers—unfortunately for themselves—are continually surrounded. Still, it is most desirable, for many reasons, that the circulation of these publications should be confined within the narrowest possible limits, but how is this to be effected? Certainly not by repressive Acts of Parliament, nor by mere preaching, nor by the substitution of what has been expressively termed "goody goody" literature. None of these remedies would prove effective to any perceptible extent.

The second-hand bookstall-keepers, especially in poor neighbourhoods, are familiar with the fact that "Robinson Crusoe" and the "Pilgrim's Progress" have always been among the most saleable books known, no matter in what form. The illustrated editions of these works, published by Messrs. Cassell, enjoyed a circulation far exceeding that of all the penny novels published during the last four or five years. Why should not the hint thus afforded be practically acted upon? Why should not Messrs. Cassell or the Religious Tract Society publish such works as "Cook's Voyages Round the World," Defoe's "History of the Great Plague," Dana's "Two Years before the Mast," or the "Memoirs of Benvenuto Cellini," of course in a compressed form, in penny illustrated numbers? There is always a wide field for such publications. Or, better still, why should not clever writers be specially employed to write popular and instructive tales in the style most familiar to the crowd? The adventures of an emigrant in Australia, the story of a sailor's life on board ship, or the experiences of a gold-seeker, would furnish materials for tales no less exciting than those based on the knavish exploits of rascally highwaymen and cowardly prison-breakers. Besides, working-class readers invariably prefer fact to fiction. But such writers would have to bear in mind that truth itself has not sufficient charms to captivate the vulgar, but must be veiled in mystery, or invested with adventitious ornaments or attractions, to strike the popular taste. It is the ignorance of this which has led to so many failures in writing for the masses. It was like endeavouring to paint before the art of drawing had been acquired. Perhaps, however, we may speedily perceive a change for the better in this direction. But with the development of an improved educational system and an increase in the number of free libraries, even the remedies above alluded to would scarcely be required. At any rate, such is the experience of Manchester and Birmingham. Why should we not avail ourselves of the lesson?

A new Central Synagogue in Great Portland street was consecrated on Thursday by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler. Upwards of 1,000 persons were present at the ceremony. The building, which is of Moresque design, has been erected at a cost of 25,000l.

Renan, in the *Débats* in a notice of M. Taine's forthcoming work, *De l'Intelligence*, expresses the opinion that there are but two questions totally mysterious—the origin of the human conscience and the supreme end of the universe.

During the time the late Sir Robert Peel was Premier, Lady Peel was in the habit of pasting all the articles which appeared in the newspapers against him on a screen. "Well," observed a friend, "there is nothing very singular in that. It is but the duty of every good wife to screen her husband's faults."

A RAILWAY MANAGER'S HANDWRITING.—A good story is told concerning the writing of Mr. J. W. Brooks, the great railroad manager. He had written a letter to a man on the Central Route, notifying him that under the penalty of prosecution, he must remove a barn which in some manner incommoded the road. The threatened individual was unable to read any part of the letter but the signature, but took it to be a free pass on the road, and used it for a couple of years as such, none of the conductors being able to dispute his interpretation of the document.—*American Paper*.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

There has been a split in the Cabinet, owing to a disagreement upon Article 13 of the *Senatus Consultum*, certain of the Ministers opposing the continuance of the plebiscitary power in the hands of the Emperor. There is no doubt of M. Buffet's resignation. Count Daru has also retired, but whether his resignation will be withdrawn seems to be uncertain. It is said that their successors will not be appointed till after the appeal to the people, and that M. M. Parieu and Ollivier will take charge of the Ministries *ad interim*. The other Ministers are expected to remain for the present. According to other accounts, M. de la Guéronnière will be Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Magne, Minister of Finance.

In Monday's sitting of the Legislative Body, M. Jules Favre asked the reason of the resignation of M. Buffet, adding that the Chamber had a right to demand how this resignation could be reconciled with the principle of Ministerial homogeneity. The withdrawal of M. Buffet, he said, must be due to his defence of the prerogatives of the Chamber. What, then, could retain his colleagues in office? M. Buffet replied that the moment was inopportune to give explanations, and that the interests of liberty enjoined upon him to be reserved. M. Emile Ollivier stated that he would only reply as far as the Cabinet was concerned, and he declared that all the Ministers were present at the reading of the *Senatus Consultum* to the Senate, and, subsequently, during the debates in the Legislative Body. The Minister of Justice reminded the House of his declaration previous to the vote of confidence, and added:—

The Minister defends now the same principles, the same proposals, and holds the same language as on the 27th of March. The Cabinet is responsible for the *Senatus Consultum* and the Plebiscitum, to which its policy remains unalterably attached, and the Emperor and the Ministry are in perfect accord.

In conclusion, M. Ollivier repelled the insinuation that the Cabinet was a complaisant servant of personal power. M. Jules Favre maintained that M. Ollivier's reply afforded no intelligible information respecting the cause of the Ministerial crisis. M. Segrès defended the Cabinet, and said that M. Jules Favre might be a zealous servant of the Republican cause, but he was a cruel enemy to liberty. He added that he must express his astonishment at the opposition made to the Plebiscitum by men constantly invoking the national sovereignty. M. Jules Favre rejoined that the attitude of the Ministry implied a flagrant desertion from the principles of their original programme. The subject then dropped.

From statements made at various times in the Legislative Body, it appears that the Plebiscitum will be taken in a single day, and that all political meetings would be permitted during the plebiscitary period; that the plebiscitary period would be shorter than the electoral period, and that neither the Empire nor the Emperor was called in question; the point to be submitted to the electors being the choice between the autocratic Constitution of 1852 and the Constitution of 1870. Replying to Count Kératry, the Minister of the Interior stated that the recent instructions sent to the Prefects could not furnish any ground for complaint. M. Ernest Picard having asked if these instructions would be published, M. Emile Ollivier said that the Government had recommended the functionaries to avoid all pressure against liberty, and earnestly to invite the citizens not to abstain from voting. The Minister added that the Government could not remain inert considering the activity displayed by all political parties. It is thought the popular appeal will be made on the 1st or 2nd of May.

The rumours of the ill-health of the Emperor are wholly unfounded. During the past week his Majesty has held several reviews on horseback, and has actively and regularly transacted the business of the State.

The Lyons election has resulted in the return of M. Mangini, the Left Centre candidate, by an overwhelming majority over M. Ulric de Fonville, the Irreconcilable. The former polled 15,348, the latter 7,827.

The Commission of Inquiry on the bearing of the Treaties of Commerce on manufacturing interests has decided, at the request of the English Ambassador, to receive evidence from two English manufacturers as well as from French manufacturers.

It was reported at Creusot on Saturday that a general strike is intended throughout France. Twenty-five miners who were arrested for acts of violence at Le Creusot have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. On Monday there was a full complement of men at work. 300 miners were in the pits. Rumours continue to be current of approaching strikes in certain large manufacturing establishments and workshops.

SPAIN.

The Duke de Montpensier is to be prosecuted for his share in the fatal duel with the late Henri de Bourbon.

In the Cortes, on Saturday, Senor Rivero informed the House that, according to the Government despatches which had been received, the struggle at Gracia and Barcelona was at an end. Other advices mention that the engagement at Gracia lasted two hours, the troops having commenced the attack at half-past four in the morning, on the 8th instant, and at half-past six being completely masters of the situation. The drawing for the conscription is now said to have terminated throughout Spain.

General Caballero Rodas has telegraphed important successes over the Cuban rebels, who were dispersing and surrendering in all directions. General Jordan had embarked. The insurrection was morally terminated. When this was read the Cortes passed a vote of thanks to the Captain-General of Cuba and to the army volunteers. The Cortes have adjourned to the 19th instant.

AUSTRIA.

Some progress has been made at Vienna by Count Potocki towards the formation of a Cabinet. Count Taaffe is to take the Ministry of the Interior and the War Department, and Herr Depretis the Ministry of Commerce. It is expected that the appointment of the new Ministers will be at once announced, and the Reichsrath dissolved, and that after the elections the Ministry will publish their programme and complete the Cabinet out of the newly elected Chamber. The plan of Count Potocki is, according to the correspondent of the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, to work out the elements of autonomy asked for by the various nationalities, not through a separate agreement with each of them, but through a general decentralisation, brought about in a strictly parliamentary way. The question is whether the Polish, Bohemian, and other deputies will go to the Reichsrath before the whole of the programme of the new Ministry is published. Both Houses of the Reichsrath stand adjourned. Before adjourning, the Upper Chamber elected the members of the Delegation.

INDIA.

In the Legislative Council the Income-tax Bill has been passed, on the ground of absolute necessity, but not without considerable opposition. A Calcutta telegram states that preliminary steps have been taken with the view of calling a public meeting to draw up a memorial to the Duke of Argyll protesting against the doubling of the income-tax, and praying for an efficient administration of the finances. The meeting is fixed for the 14th instant. The Budget is being severely criticised, and the Press unanimously condemn it.

The Maharajah of Kuppottulla died on board the *Golconda* on the 2nd instant; his body has been taken to Bombay. Lord Napier of Magdala has arrived at Bombay, and Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Mansfield has left for England.

Telegrams from Ceylon announce that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh has met with a most cordial welcome in the island.

CANADA.

In the sitting of the Dominion House of Commons on the 8th, the Finance Minister introduced his Budget. The ordinary expenditure is shown to be in excess of the revenue. It is proposed to increase the latter by imposing light duties on flour and grain, 50 cents per ton on coal, 5 cents per pound on hops, and 5 cents per bushel on salt, but the latter shall remain free of duty if imported from England or any British possession. This proposed salt duty is merely a protective measure against the United States. A charge of 5 per cent. is to be added to all present *ad valorem* duties,—that is to say, on the duty, not on the value of the goods. It is further proposed to increase the wine duties by 20 to 25 per cent., *ad valorem*, per gallon. Duties are to be calculated on the invoiced value. The foregoing and other tariff changes are expected to add two millions of dollars to the revenue. The Minister of Finance also stated that the Government intended to disregard the opinion of the law officers of England as to the appropriation of the International Railway Loan of last year.

Much excitement has, it is stated, been caused in Canada by the execution which took place at Fort Garry, on the 3rd ult., of Thomas Scott, an Irishman, who had joined in a movement against Riel, the leader of the Red River insurgents. At Toronto, as we learn by Atlantic Cable, a great meeting was held on Wednesday, to express indignation at this event, and to urge that energetic measures should be taken to suppress the insurrection. Similar meetings were to be held at Montreal and elsewhere. In the Canadian Parliament the Premier has announced that a policy of action will be adopted.

Preparations are being made in Canada against a threatened Fenian raid.

AMERICA.

President Grant has sent a special message to Congress, announcing that, on learning stringent measures might be adopted by Canada to exclude all foreign fishing vessels from the inshore fisheries unless provided with licences, the President has directed a small active naval steamer to be sent, at the beginning of the approaching fishing season, to the waters in which those fisheries are chiefly carried on, for the purpose of warning and protection to the United States fishermen. The commander of the vessel is instructed to prevent infractions by citizens of the United States of the treaty with England of 1818, and of the laws in force relating to fisheries within British jurisdiction, or any illegal interference with the pursuits of American fishermen.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Sulphur beds have been discovered in California, and the quantity refined is increasing daily. Advices from Mexico state that the Revolutionists are again active in the northern provinces.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies have (as usual) authorised the provisional exercise of the Budget.

190,000*l.*, but with a prospective gain to the revenue in 1885, when the annuities fall in, of 3,376,000*l.* in a lump sum. The following is a birds-eye view of Mr. Lowe's financial proposals for the year 1870-71:—

Estimated revenue, 1870-71	£71,450,000
Estimated expenditure	67,113,000
Surplus	£4,337,000
Firearm tax	150,000
Total surplus	£4,487,000
Remission of taxes:	
Hawkers' licences	£16,000
Other licences	6,000
Stamps	50,000
Hail and cattle insurance	6,000
Impressed newspaper stamp	6,000
Other postal charges	125,000
Railway tax	103,000
Income tax (1 <i>d.</i>)	1,250,000
Sugar duties	2,350,000
Total	£3,966,000
Interest on terminable annuities	190,000
	£4,156,000
Surplus	£331,000

With wondrous prophetic daring Mr. White sees "looming in the distance," a surplus of six millions for next April. But without anticipating what may happen within the long interval, it must be admitted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer exhibits great foresight in providing for future financial triumphs, as well as in trying to equalise and mitigate present public burdens. Without laying any claim to that sagacity which is undoubtedly his due, Mr. Lowe says the secret of all this success is "nothing on earth but economy." "I am sure," he adds, "that we cannot better discharge the trust reposed in us than by lightening as far as possible the burdens of our fellow subjects, and I hope, therefore, that the House will consider that it is not merely by talking of economy that these things are done, but that there are some things required of them as well as from those who are entrusted with the public expenditure—namely, to lay down to yourselves clearly and distinctly what is the legitimate province of government, and make a rule never to force anything beyond that." Such was the modest and weighty conclusion of a speech which embodies a skilful and equitable financial operation, and promises such substantial remissions taxation as will further augment the popularity of Mr. Gladstone's Administration.

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It has frequently been asserted, and with considerable truth and force, that it is almost impossible for a civilised nation to become possessed of any special social, or other advantage or benefit, without at the same time discovering the acquisition to be attended with serious drawbacks considerably impairing its value and practical utility. The existing condition of our cheap literature has sometimes been cited as a case in point. When Charles Knight and the Messrs. Chambers commenced, some forty years ago, their energetic struggle on behalf of cheap and wholesome literary food for the million, they were repeatedly told that their efforts would be completely thrown away, that the experiment so courageously begun by them would end in ignominious failure. The *Penny Satirist* might sell, but not the *Penny Magazine* or *Chambers's Journal*. The coarse and uneducated taste of the multitude would require food of a like low character. When, a few years afterwards, the shop-windows of the cheap booksellers began to be filled with rudely illustrated penny numbers of "Varney the Vampire, or the Feast of Blood"; "Ela the Outcast"; "Vileroy, or the Horrors of Zindorf Castle"; "Ada the Betrayed"; "The Death Grasp," and other equally sensational and exciting romances, with no less startling titles, it really seemed as if

the dismal prophecies uttered by the opponents of cheap literature were in a fair way of becoming realised. Occasionally a tale in which highwaymen and pickpockets figured as heroes, would make its appearance, but the main stream of patronage was reserved for novels, in which sentimental heroines and heartless villains figured most conspicuously. The language put in the mouths of the heroes and heroines was generally of a most ridiculous, inflated, and bombastic character, such as was never employed in real life. The woodcuts were no less exaggerated in style, and were perfect marvels of coarseness of execution. As examples of the wood-engraver's art, they were simply execrable. Yet, extensive as was the sale enjoyed by some of these works, they were seldom very profitable to their publishers, the circulation of each often fluctuating in the most extraordinary and incomprehensible manner. Moreover, there was little or no sale for the back numbers, and consequently the booksellers naturally refused to keep them in stock. At last the demand became so seriously diminished in consequence of the popularity enjoyed by the newly established *Family Herald*, *London Journal*, and similar periodicals, that the leading trafficker in these penny novels at last threw up the trade in sheer disgust, and confined his energies to the production of a cheap weekly newspaper.

Of late years, however, a kind of revival in this particular species of literature has taken place, and penny numbers of illustrated novels are beginning to reappear in the shop windows. This is indirectly the result of the comparatively large circulation attained by a tale entitled, "Rose Mortimer, or the Ballet Girl's Revenge," and one or two others of a like character. These novels were of a most absurd and senseless character, but occasionally they contained scenes of a most infamous character, illustrated by cuts even more atrocious. Still, as of old, the sale remains comparatively small, and with the view of forcing the circulation various expedients have been resorted to from time to time. Sometimes gaudily coloured pictures are presented gratis to purchasers; at others, tickets entitling the holders to participation in lotteries of various kinds are presented; but more frequently the attempt takes the form of an indirect appeal to the worst passions of the young readers. Hence the startling narratives of highwaymen and other criminals which have lately been so abundant amongst the younger members of our labouring population. Of the pernicious character of these there can be no question, but their circulation is far less extensive than is generally assumed, for cheap booksellers have a great aversion to retaining on hand unsaleable stocks of back numbers. Sometimes the want of popularity is so marked, that the sale of even a first number is insufficient to pay for paper and printing. The number of persons engaged in the trade is very small. All the penny numbers are issued from two or three wholesale houses in the metropolis, which consider them as a part only of their regular traffic, the trade not being sufficiently large to employ the resources of any one establishment. Not more than two or three artists are regularly employed in the preparation of the woodcuts, yet, limited as is the number, the trade is of a most precarious character. The number of tale-writers is about eight or nine. The remuneration obtained by these is ridiculously low, even for Grub-street. Yet more than one of these men can boast a University education, but an unfortunate predilection for gin-and-water has led them to thus prostitute their acquired talents. The tales are invariably written chapter by chapter as required. If they take well, the novels are continued so long as they can obtain a paying circulation. Sometimes a novel will run over 104 and even more weekly numbers at others it will become finished in less than a dozen weeks. Occasionally, when the failing circulation betrays the diminished interest entertained by the readers, the publisher will engage a fresh writer. In this manner as many as four or five persons have been employed on a single tale. For the principles of morality or good taste neither publishers, authors, or artists seem to have much respect. But they are obliged to defer to public opinion, as expressed by the action of the bookselling trade, and more than one novel of an admittedly immoral tendency has found its sale effectually stopped through the refusal of the wholesale trade to take it into stock.

The present number of these publications is about twenty, the weekly sale of each varying from a few hundreds to as many thousands. The readers are almost exclusively young persons, principally those engaged in manufacturing establishments. Shop-boys and milliners' apprentices are also extensive patrons of this species of literature, especially the more exciting narratives, such as "The Wild Boys

of London," "Blueskin," "Claude Duval," and so forth. At the present time the trade is in a far less prosperous condition than formerly, owing to the systematic manner in which the cheap illustrated periodicals, pressed closely by the cheap newspapers, are covering all the ground available. In fact, the penny newspapers are carrying everything before them, and experienced persons do not hesitate to declare that the days of penny novels and serials are over. But this opinion is evidently premature. Cheap works of fiction will always command readers among the young, especially those belonging to the labouring classes. With respect to the influence exercised by some of these penny tales over the minds of their readers, there can be no doubt of its highly pernicious character, yet, on the other hand, it must be remembered that many of these startling narratives often act as inducements leading the uneducated to acquire the art of reading, so that the evil is not wholly unmixed with good. Again, many of the scenes described, however vicious, are not worse than those with which many of the readers—unfortunately for themselves—are continually surrounded. Still, it is most desirable, for many reasons, that the circulation of these publications should be confined within the narrowest possible limits, but how is this to be effected? Certainly not by repressive Acts of Parliament, nor by mere preaching, nor by the substitution of what has been expressively termed "goody goody" literature. None of these remedies would prove effective to any perceptible extent.

The second-hand bookstall-keepers, especially in poor neighbourhoods, are familiar with the fact that "Robinson Crusoe" and the "Pilgrim's Progress" have always been among the most saleable books known, no matter in what form. The illustrated editions of these works, published by Messrs. Cassell, enjoyed a circulation far exceeding that of all the penny novels published during the last four or five years. Why should not the hint thus afforded be practically acted upon? Why should not Messrs. Cassell or the Religious Tract Society publish such works as "Cook's Voyages Round the World," Defoe's "History of the Great Plague," Dana's "Two Years before the Mast," or the "Memoirs of Benvenuto Cellini," of course in a compressed form, in penny illustrated numbers? There is always a wide field for such publications. Or, better still, why should not clever writers be specially employed to write popular and instructive tales in the style most familiar to the crowd? The adventures of an emigrant in Australia, the story of a sailor's life on board ship, or the experiences of a gold-seeker, would furnish materials for tales no less exciting than those based on the knavish exploits of rascally highwaymen and cowardly prison-breakers. Besides, working-class readers invariably prefer fact to fiction. But such writers would have to bear in mind that truth itself has not sufficient charms to captivate the vulgar, but must be veiled in mystery, or invested with adventitious ornaments or attractions, to strike the popular taste. It is the ignorance of this which has led to so many failures in writing for the masses. It was like endeavouring to paint before the art of drawing had been acquired. Perhaps, however, we may speedily perceive a change for the better in this direction. But with the development of an improved educational system and an increase in the number of free libraries, even the remedies above alluded to would scarcely be required. At any rate, such is the experience of Manchester and Birmingham. Why should we not avail ourselves of the lesson?

A new Central Synagogue in Great Portland street was consecrated on Thursday by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Adler. Upwards of 1,000 persons were present at the ceremony. The building, which is of Moresque design, has been erected at a cost of 25,000*l*.

Renan, in the *Débats* in a notice of M. Taine's forthcoming work, *De l'Intelligence*, expresses the opinion that there are but two questions totally mysterious—the origin of the human conscience and the supreme end of the universe.

During the time the late Sir Robert Peel was Premier, Lady Peel was in the habit of pasting all the articles which appeared in the newspapers against him on a screen. "Well," observed a friend, "there is nothing very singular in that. It is but the duty of every good wife to screen her husband's faults."

A RAILWAY MANAGER'S HANDWRITING.—A good story is told concerning the writing of Mr. J. W. Brooks, the great railroad manager. He had written a letter to a man on the Central Route, notifying to him that under the penalty of prosecution, he must remove a barn which in some manner incommoded the road. The threatened individual was unable to read any part of the letter but the signature, but took it to be a free pass on the road, and used it for a couple of years as such, none of the conductors being able to dispute his interpretation of the document.—*American Paper*.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

There has been a split in the Cabinet, owing to a disagreement upon Article 13 of the *Senatus Consultum*, certain of the Ministers opposing the continuance of the plebiscitary power in the hands of the Emperor. There is no doubt of M. Buffet's resignation. Count Daru has also retired, but whether his resignation will be withdrawn seems to be uncertain. It is said that their successors will not be appointed till after the appeal to the people, and that M. M. Parieu and Ollivier will take charge of the Ministries *ad interim*. The other Ministers are expected to remain for the present. According to other accounts, M. de la Guéronnière will be Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Magne, Minister of Finance.

In Monday's sitting of the Legislative Body, M. Jules Favre asked the reason of the resignation of M. Buffet, adding that the Chamber had a right to demand how this resignation could be reconciled with the principle of Ministerial homogeneity. The withdrawal of M. Buffet, he said, must be due to his defence of the prerogatives of the Chamber. What, then, could retain his colleagues in office? M. Buffet replied that the moment was inopportune to give explanations, and that the interests of liberty enjoined upon him to be reserved. M. Emile Ollivier stated that he would only reply as far as the Cabinet was concerned, and he declared that all the Ministers were present at the reading of the *Senatus Consultum* to the Senate, and, subsequently, during the debates in the Legislative Body. The Minister of Justice reminded the House of his declaration previous to the vote of confidence, and added:—

The Minister defends now the same principles, the same proposals, and holds the same language as on the 27th of March. The Cabinet is responsible for the *Senatus Consultum* and the Plebiscitum, to which its policy remains unalterably attached, and the Emperor and the Ministry are in perfect accord.

In conclusion, M. Ollivier repelled the insinuation that the Cabinet was a complaisant servant of personal power. M. Jules Favre maintained that M. Ollivier's reply afforded no intelligible information respecting the cause of the Ministerial crisis. M. Segrès defended the Cabinet, and said that M. Jules Favre might be a zealous servant of the Republican cause, but he was a cruel enemy to liberty. He added that he must express his astonishment at the opposition made to the Plebiscitum by men constantly invoking the national sovereignty. M. Jules Favre rejoined that the attitude of the Ministry implied a flagrant desertion from the principles of their original programme. The subject then dropped.

From statements made at various times in the Legislative Body, it appears that the Plebiscitum will be taken in a single day, and that all political meetings would be permitted during the plebiscitary period; that the plebiscitary period would be shorter than the electoral period, and that neither the Empire nor the Emperor was called in question; the point to be submitted to the electors being the choice between the autocratic Constitution of 1852 and the Constitution of 1870. Replying to Count Kératry, the Minister of the Interior stated that the recent instructions sent to the Prefects could not furnish any ground for complaint. M. Ernest Picard having asked if these instructions would be published, M. Emile Ollivier said that the Government had recommended the functionaries to avoid all pressure against liberty, and earnestly to invite the citizens not to abstain from voting. The Minister added that the Government could not remain inert considering the activity displayed by all political parties. It is thought the popular appeal will be made on the 1st or 2nd of May.

The rumours of the ill-health of the Emperor are wholly unfounded. During the past week his Majesty has held several reviews on horseback, and has actively and regularly transacted the business of the State.

The Lyons election has resulted in the return of M. Mangini, the Left Centre candidate, by an overwhelming majority over M. Ulric de Fonvielle, the Irreconcilable. The former polled 15,348, the latter 7,827.

The Commission of Inquiry on the bearing of the Treaties of Commerce on manufacturing interests has decided, at the request of the English Ambassador, to receive evidence from two English manufacturers as well as from French manufacturers.

It was reported at Creuzot on Saturday that a general strike is intended throughout France. Twenty-five miners who were arrested for acts of violence at Le Creuzot have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. On Monday there was a full complement of men at work. 300 miners were in the pits. Rumours continue to be current of approaching strikes in certain large manufacturing establishments and workshops.

SPAIN.

The Duke de Montpensier is to be prosecuted for his share in the fatal duel with the late Henri de Bourbon.

In the Cortes, on Saturday, Senor Rivero informed the House that, according to the Government despatches which had been received, the struggle at Gracia and Barcelona was at an end. Other advices mention that the engagement at Gracia lasted two hours, the troops having commenced the attack at half-past four in the morning, on the 8th instant, and at half-past six being completely masters of the situation. The drawing for the conscription is now said to have terminated throughout Spain.

General Caballero Rodas has telegraphed important successes over the Cuban rebels, who were dispersing and surrendering in all directions. General Jordan had embarked. The insurrection was morally terminated. When this was read the Cortes passed a vote of thanks to the Captain-General of Cuba and to the army volunteers. The Cortes have adjourned to the 19th instant.

AUSTRIA.

Some progress has been made at Vienna by Count Potocki towards the formation of a Cabinet. Count Taaffe is to take the Ministry of the Interior and the War Department, and Herr Depretis the Ministry of Commerce. It is expected that the appointment of the new Ministers will be at once announced, and the Reichsrath dissolved, and that after the elections the Ministry will publish their programme and complete the Cabinet out of the newly elected Chamber. The plan of Count Potocki is, according to the correspondent of the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, to work out the elements of autonomy asked for by the various nationalities, not through a separate agreement with each of them, but through a general decentralisation, brought about in a strictly parliamentary way. The question is whether the Polish, Bohemian, and other deputies will go to the Reichsrath before the whole of the programme of the new Ministry is published. Both Houses of the Reichsrath stand adjourned. Before adjourning, the Upper Chamber elected the members of the Delegation.

INDIA.

In the Legislative Council the Income-tax Bill has been passed, on the ground of absolute necessity, but not without considerable opposition. A Calcutta telegram states that preliminary steps have been taken with the view of calling a public meeting to draw up a memorial to the Duke of Argyll protesting against the doubling of the income-tax, and praying for an efficient administration of the finances. The meeting is fixed for the 14th instant. The Budget is being severely criticised, and the Press unanimously condemn it.

The Maharajah of Kuppottulla died on board the *Golconda* on the 2nd instant; his body has been taken to Bombay. Lord Napier of Magdala has arrived at Bombay, and Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Mansfield has left for England.

Telegrams from Ceylon announce that His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh has met with a most cordial welcome in the island.

CANADA.

In the sitting of the Dominion House of Commons on the 8th, the Finance Minister introduced his Budget. The ordinary expenditure is shown to be in excess of the revenue. It is proposed to increase the latter by imposing light duties on flour and grain, 50 cents per ton on coal, 5 cents per pound on hops, and 5 cents per bushel on salt, but the latter shall remain free of duty if imported from England or any British possession. This proposed salt duty is merely a protective measure against the United States. A charge of 5 per cent. is to be added to all present *ad valorem* duties,—that is to say, on the duty, not on the value of the goods. It is further proposed to increase the wine duties by 20 to 25 per cent., *ad valorem*, per gallon. Duties are to be calculated on the invoiced value. The foregoing and other tariff changes are expected to add two millions of dollars to the revenue. The Minister of Finance also stated that the Government intended to disregard the opinion of the law officers of England as to the appropriation of the International Railway Loan of last year.

Much excitement has, it is stated, been caused in Canada by the execution which took place at Fort Garry, on the 3rd ult., of Thomas Scott, an Irishman, who had joined in a movement against Riel, the leader of the Red River insurgents. At Toronto, as we learn by Atlantic Cable, a great meeting was held on Wednesday, to express indignation at this event, and to urge that energetic measures should be taken to suppress the insurrection. Similar meetings were to be held at Montreal and elsewhere. In the Canadian Parliament the Premier has announced that a policy of action will be adopted.

Preparations are being made in Canada against a threatened Fenian raid.

AMERICA.

President Grant has sent a special message to Congress, announcing that, on learning stringent measures might be adopted by Canada to exclude all foreign fishing vessels from the inshore fisheries unless provided with licences, the President has directed a small active naval steamer to be sent, at the beginning of the approaching fishing season, to the waters in which those fisheries are chiefly carried on, for the purpose of warning and protection to the United States fishermen. The commander of the vessel is instructed to prevent infractions by citizens of the United States of the treaty with England of 1818, and of the laws in force relating to fisheries within British jurisdiction, or any illegal interference with the pursuits of American fishermen.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Sulphur beds have been discovered in California, and the quantity refined is increasing daily.

Advices from Mexico state that the Revolutionists are again active in the northern provinces.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies have (as usual) authorised the provisional exercise of the Budget.

By a vote of 178 to 41 it has been agreed to postpone the subject till May 31st.

Father Gavazzi is now in Lyons, and also Signor Mazzini. The Father's visit is said to be of a political nature.

THE UNFORTUNATE EMPRESS OF MEXICO.—The *London* Paris correspondent states that the Empress Charlotte is in a most melancholy condition. She has now attained the last stage of a terrible disease, which has made a wreck of her mental and physical faculties.

SUTTEE IN INDIA.—A case of suttee (self-immolation of a widow) occurred lately at Jounpore. The relatives of the deceased who encouraged her to commit the horrid rite, have been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment; and the villagers who looked on to three years' imprisonment.

AN INTERCHANGE OF GIFTS.—*Le Gaulois* says that Marshal Prim has recently made a present to the Emperor Napoleon of 20,000 cigars with gilt ends and ornamented with the Imperial N., also gilt, on each cigar, which is estimated to be worth 14*fr.* In return the Emperor has sent to the Spanish Marshal a pair of vases of Sèvres manufacture.

THE ARMENIAN CATHOLIC DISSENTERS.—It is announced by the *Levant Herald* that the Porte has definitively sanctioned the secession of the Armenian Catholics, by authorising the seceders to employ a new corporate seal and elect a special council for the purpose of provisionally administering their affairs, pending the choice of a separate spiritual and civil chief.

CAPE POLITICS.—The Cape House of Assembly had rejected the Governor's Reform Bill. It was considered that the bill had for its object the destruction of the present constitution of the colony, and the substitution of increased personal power of the Governor. The estimates, refused in the last session, had passed. Large majorities in both Houses of the Legislature were against the introduction of party government and against the Imperial Government's policy of withdrawal of the troops.

CITY ARMS WANTED.—The Canadians have apparently the knack of utilising the juvenile waifs of the old country, and are prepared to take as much of the raw material as we are inclined to export. Upwards of a hundred respectable Canadian farmers have applied to hire one boy each for a year, at the usual rate of wages, with board and lodging in the family. The managers of the Boys' Refuge, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London, have jumped at the offer, but they want about 10*l.* for each boy, to cover the cost of outfit and passage to Canada.

THE EX-ROYAL FAMILY OF SPAIN.—The arbitrators in the suit between Queen Isabella and her husband Don Francis d'Assise, have awarded him an annuity of 8,000*l.*, which is pretty nearly equal to what he would have got by the strict execution of his marriage settlement. The equal division of the common property which he demanded was refused. It is confirmed that a separation *à mens et thoro* is part of the arrangement. Don F. d'Assise has already left the Queen's residence, and taken a lodging elsewhere.

THE LAZY NIGGER.—Somebody writes to the *Chicago Tribune* from Vicksburg, Miss., that when he arrived in the State he was positively assured by almost every (white) body that "thenigger wouldn't work." Proceeding to the verification of this assertion by personal observation, he was somewhat surprised to discover that "the nigger was the only person who did work"—that all the stories about his "indolence and shiftlessness" must be taken with several pounds of allowance—that he is advancing under difficulties which would totally discourage a great many whites, such as the rent-charge of ten or fifteen dollars per acre for his land; and that, with about half the fair play which is usually considered necessary, he is laying up money.—*New York Tribune.*

THE FRENCH PLEBISCITE.—The correspondent of a contemporary says:—"You will no doubt read with interest the result of the plebiscites which have hitherto taken place in France. Here they are in tabular order:—

	For.	Against.
Constitution of 1793 (Republic)	1,801,918	11,610
Constitution of the year III. (Republic)	1,057,380	49,957
Constitution of the year VIII. (Consulate)	3,911,000	1,569
Senatus Consultum of the year X. (Consulate for Life)	3,568,185	9,074
Senatus Consultum of the year XIII. (Empire)	3,321,675	2,599
Additional Act of 1815	1,300,000	4,206
Constitution of 1852	7,473,431	641,351
Senatus Consultum of December, 1852 (Empire)	7,828,189	253,145

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—Three States of the Union—Michigan, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin—have up to the present time abolished the death penalty. Michigan led the way so long ago as 1846, and, according to a statement which has just been published, and which is supported by the written opinions of the State prison inspector and of two agents of the State prison, the experience of four-and-twenty years proves with the happiest effect. The number of convictions for murder is now greater than when the crime itself was punished with death, while the crime itself has not increased. Rhode Island followed the example of Michigan, in 1852; and the testimony of governors, judges, State attorneys, and prison warders, is all to the effect that the greater certainty of conviction and of enforcement of the sentence has diminished the number of murders. In Wisconsin, which abolished hanging in 1853, murders have since decreased forty per cent. in proportion to the population.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS.—A short time ago there were as many as 420 newspapers and reviews published in

Paris. A new journal, entitled *Le Petit Palais de Justice*, was started for the sole purpose of giving a full report of the trial at Tours, and ceased to appear after that celebrated proceeding. Of the most violent democratic papers, the chief are the *Marseillaise*, *Rappel*, *Clocus*, and *Reveil*. The *Journal de Paris* is not so advanced, and of the same class are the *Parlement*, *Soir*, and *Siècle*, which latter is not nearly so violent as it was in the days of absolute personal government. The *Liberté* is a Liberal paper, but favourable on the whole to the present Government. The *Temps* and the *Moniteur* are both independent, but the latter, like the *Gaulois*, is somewhat inclined to the Opposition. The *Figaro*, the most universally read paper in Paris, professes to be entirely independent, but has a slight bias in favour of the present Government. The *Constitutionnel* and the *Patrie* are thoroughly Ministerial journals, as are also the *Etendard* and the *Peuple Français*. The *Public* is Roubertist, and the *Gazette de France* Legitimist. The *Paris Journal* and the *Débats* are independent and scarcely political: the latter, however, being supposed to hold Orleanist views. The *Monde*, the clerical organ, is also rather Orleanist in its opinions, and the *Droit* and the *Gazette des Tribunaux* are purely legal journals.—*The Echo.*

KIDNAPPING IN THE SOUTH SEAS.—A letter from the Rev. Peter Milne, who is now on a tour through the New Hebrides Islands, throws some light on the deplorable condition of those islands. Mr. Milne says:—"The next island we visited after leaving Santo was Tregos, the largest of the Shepherd's group. We arrived there on the 31st of October. The Flirt, a brigantine belonging to one M'Kenzie, of Auckland, was anchored there. We soon learned that the object of her visit to the New Hebrides was to get labourers for Fiji, and that she had on board some twenty natives of Three Hills Island, and three natives of Tongoa. A Tongoa chief, who came on board the Dayspring, told us that a little before our arrival he went to the Flirt in his canoe to try to get his countrymen off; and that, as one of them was attempting to get into the canoe, a white man on board presented a musket, and said that if he took that man away he would shoot him. Soon after this, captain Fraser, commanding the Dayspring mission ship, went on board the Flirt to see her captain, who told him that he was not kidnapping natives, nor was he going to take them to Fiji, but merely taking them at their own request to the neighbouring island of Epi to see their friends, and he would return them again to their own island in three days. We learned, however, afterwards that the men were taken to Fiji, and never returned to their friends. One of the chiefs of Tongoa is greatly enraged just now at white men, owing to Captain M'Leod, of the schooner Donald M'Lean, having taken away two of his wives and a number of his people to Port-au-France, New Caledonia, and he is waiting for an opportunity to take vengeance. I have heard that the captain of one of these slaving vessels having come to an island where he knew Bishop Patteson had been visiting, dressed himself like a bishop, went ashore with a Bible in his hand, and sang psalms in order to allure the natives on board, and that he thus obtained a good number. That is the most diabolical plan I have heard tried. On the 2nd of October, Mr. Williams, nephew to the late Mr. John Williams, missionary in Polynesia, was killed by natives. A chief Kwamera brought us word that, as Mr. Williams was returning to the house of a Mr. Smith, a trader with whom he was residing, he was waylaid and shot by an under-chief of the Kasse-Kasse tribe of Tannese. He was then carried away to a village called Jtaumarin, and according to their custom, tied up by the hands to a banyan or sacred tree, and next morning was taken down, cut up and cooked, and distributed among the villagers."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Rev. J. Moorhouse, vicar of Paddington, preached before the Queen on Sunday in the private chapel at Windsor. On Saturday evening Mr., Mrs., and Miss Gladstone dined with Her Majesty.

The Queen held a Council at Windsor Castle on Friday afternoon. Lords de Grey, Kimberley, and Sydney, and Mr. Helps were present.

The Court leaves Windsor for Osborne this afternoon.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty, held a levée at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

The *Liberté* says it believes our Princess Louise is to be married next August to the Prince of Orange, the heir-apparent of the Netherlands.

Earl Spencer, if we may credit the *Dublin Mail*, will resign the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland after Easter; and it is not improbable Mr. Chichester Fortescue will succeed him with an English peerage. An old rumour.

Mr. Bright arrived at Llandudno on Saturday, accompanied by Mrs. Bright, and is stated to appear much improved in health. His medical advisers, however, are of opinion that it would not be desirable for Mr. Bright to resume his Parliamentary duties during the present session. The usually well-informed London correspondent of the *Scotsman* does not doubt but that Mr. Bright will resign the Presidency of the Board of Trade, but he does not think it follows that he will retire from the Ministry. "Precedent for a Minister remaining in office without a portfolio has been afforded in the cases of Lord Lansdowne and Lord Russell, and although it would be premature to speak positively on the subject, it is quite possible that such an arrangement may be resorted to in the present instance. There is a

rumour that if Mr. Bright resigns Mr. Stansfeld will succeed him at the Board of Trade. On the other hand, there are those who think that Mr. Lefevre has earned a title to the preferment, although of course without a seat in the Cabinet."

It is probable that, when the session is more advanced, Mr. Charles Buxton will bring forward a motion with reference to the enormous military armaments of Europe.

The *Law Times* learns from authority that, unless much modified in the Lords, the High Court of Appeal Bill will be strenuously opposed in the House of Commons, on the ground of its retention of the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords, which, it is generally agreed, will no longer be needed, when a better tribunal has been constructed.

Mr. Disraeli will not be present at the Perth banquet to Sir William Maxwell. The state of the right hon. gentleman's health is stated to be such that he stands in need of total relaxation from public speaking during the Easter recess.

It is officially announced that the sum of 63,745*l.*, being one-fourth of the surplus revenue of the United Kingdom for the year ending December, will be applied towards the reduction of the National Debt in the quarter ending June next.

Crimes and Casualties.

Early on Monday morning a fire broke out at Norton Lindsay, near Warwick, and before assistance could be rendered, two ladies of advanced age were suffocated. An old lady, named Sarah Mason, in her 102nd year, has died in the Birmingham General Hospital from injuries caused by her dress taking fire.

Five persons were seriously injured in an accident that happened on Sunday to the mail-train on its way from the north to London. The train was running about fifty miles an hour, when it suddenly left the rails near Greyrig Bank, about six miles north of Oxenholme, in Cumberland. Several carriages were broken to pieces, and all of them were more or less damaged.

A board of medical gentlemen having examined the convict Rutterford, who was condemned to death for the murder of a gamekeeper of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, and reported to the Home Secretary that in their opinion he could not be hanged in the ordinary way without the risk of a very revolting spectacle, in consequence of the cicatrix which he has in his neck, Mr. Bruce has advised the grant of a reprieve. The execution was to have taken place on Monday.

A colliery accident, by which seven men lost their lives, and several others were more or less seriously injured, took place at Starlaw, near Bathgate, on Saturday. It was caused by the woodwork of the upcast shaft catching fire. The alarm was given a few minutes before noon, and at this time there were fifty-six men and boys in the pit. The work of extricating them was carried on under prodigious difficulties, the unfortunate men being literally dragged through the flames that filled the shaft. At length the cage rope was burned through, thus sealing the fate of seven men who remained in the pit, and whose bodies were not recovered till the fire had been got under, and the ventilation of the pit restored at a late hour in the evening. Of those who have been injured, one lies in a hopeless and another in a precarious condition.

The Glamorgan Inn at Cardiff was burnt down on Saturday morning, and four persons were either burnt to death or suffocated. The fire was discovered at about half-past two. A crowd was speedily about the hotel; but though they knew there were persons within, they had no means to save life. There was no fire-escape, and the fire engines, according to the statement of an eye-witness, did not arrive until twenty minutes to four o'clock. Mr. Giles, a lodger, perished with a child in his arms which he was attempting to save, and Miss Stacey, the daughter of the landlord, and another child, met a similar fate. Mr. Stacey escaped, but when rescued he became delirious. The delay in the arrival of the fire-engine has caused a strong feeling in the town, and the faulty organisation of the brigade is admitted. The landlord of the hotel remains in an unconscious state, and it is feared that he will not recover.

A WARNING TO THE FASHIONABLE.—The passion for dress, about which we hear so much just now, is nothing new. An old satirist thus lampoons the ladies of his day:—

What is the reason—can you guess—
Why men are poor, and women thinner?
So much do they for dinner dress,
That nothing's left to dress for dinner.

THE ABSORBING PASSION.—In the course of his humorous speech at the anniversary dinner of the News-vendors' Provident and Benevolent Institution, Mr. Charles Dickens told a pretty story. Some years ago, on a very stormy night, he was escorted by a newsmen from a railway-station in a little out-of-the-way town. To his companion the great novelist propounded the question, "What is the all-absorbing passion of the human soul?" The reply was characteristic. "The passion for getting your newspaper in advance of your fellow-creatures, and if you hire it, to get it delivered at your own door at exactly the same moment as another man who has hired the same copy, and who lives four miles off; finally, the invincible determination on the part of both men is not to believe that the time is up when the boy calls for the paper."

Literature.

"THE CHURCH AND THE AGE."

Perhaps the most satisfactory circumstance connected with the religious organisations of the present day is the evident willingness of their members to allow that they may be improved. We are not sure that this extends to the Wesleyan body, which takes, upon at least some questions, the *non possumus* attitude which has always been characteristic of the Court of Rome. Everywhere else, however, there is felt to be necessity for change; for the removal of abuses; for the adaptation of institutions to the times in which we live. All organisations are now being tried before such a bar of public opinion as has never before existed in this country. What are they? What have they done? What do they do? What is the sum of their influence? are questions that can be answered as soon as they are asked. Swift is the succeeding judgment; and unless, after condemnation, there appears to be not only a disposition to self-reform, but a vigorous and successful effort to obtain it, ground is lost that can never be recovered, and the only question left is, How long will it be before decay sets in, and uselessness and oblivion succeed?

The appearance of this new volume of Essays is a hopeful sign for the Episcopalian Church in England. We may take the Essays to be, on the whole, a very faithful exhibition of the state of thought which prevails amongst the most active-minded members of the moderate High Church party—the party that at onetime, used to be denominated the "High and Dry." Of their ability and temper it is scarcely possible to speak in terms of too great respect. The writers, are, without exception, men of highly cultured minds, all possessing what may be termed that reserve of expression which usually accompanies high culture. Hence there will probably appear, to some readers, a want of force, and occasionally, a want of distinctness of language, but these defects, if they can be allowed to exist, are compensated by mildness of tone and charity of spirit. The writers, when they are reformers, are very Conservative reformers. They have no extreme views, and no extreme proposals, and nothing of the faculty of destructiveness exists in any of their natures. If there be an exception to this it is, singularly enough, presented in the Essay of the only member of the Episcopal Bench who contributes to this volume—Dr. Ellicott, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

The introductory Essay, from the pen of Dean Hook, is on Anglican Principles, affirms, from the High Church point of view, the principles of the Reformation. It is to a great extent a vindication of the doctrine that each national church "has authority to conduct its own affairs without regard to foreign interference." It follows, of course, that there must be a national church, as such, and that such a Church cannot be a Roman Church. But why must it be "Anglican"?—that is, why must it be what the Anglican Church is, or is assumed to be, in doctrine, worship, and government? The Dean presents this argument historically, falling back first of all, of course, upon the old Fathers and the old Councils. This is clear and characteristic,—

"The question may here occur, Why should more of deference be paid to the opinions of the Fathers of the first three or four centuries than to the opinions of Luther and Calvin? and the answer is, That we refer to the writings of the early Fathers not for their opinions, but for the witness they bear to certain facts. Our desire is to ascertain what was delivered orally by the Apostles, with respect to doctrine or discipline in the churches they formed, some of them before the Scriptures of the New Testament were written. We do this, not because we think the Scriptures insufficient, but to enable us, especially on disputed points, to understand the Scriptures, and to elucidate what is obscure. That the Christians of the first ages acted on the same principles as our Reformers, is well known to every student of ecclesiastical history."—P. 23.

Dr. Hook, like all his class, does not, and cannot, see, that in giving to the early writings such an authority he virtually gives to them an equal authority to that of the Scriptures themselves. The reason of the rejection of the subsequent Councils is well explained by the author, but we demur to Dean Hook's representation of the spirit of the Elizabethan period. He says it was a spirit of concession. To a certain extent, this is true, but it was a concession, not to the most religious, but to the most irreligious of the people. The Dean follows this by saying that "a similar conciliatory spirit was exhibited towards the ultra-Protestants themselves, but with less

"success." The Dean has remarkable notions of conciliation; Barrow and Penry, most certainly, would not agree with him. However, these and similar assertions do not detract from the general value of this essay, which is one of the ablest expositions, in brief language, of the grounds of the High Church faith, that has ever been given.

The next essay, by Dr. Ellicott, will be read generally with unmixed admiration. It is an attempt to estimate the "Course and Direction of Modern Religious Thought." Dr. Ellicott commences by reviewing the changes which have taken place in our own day, from the "Essays and Review" movement to the publication of "*Ecce Homo*." It is impossible, in a few lines, to give the reader anything like a just impression of the beauty, the honour, and the courage, which, in almost equal degrees, characterise this remarkable essay. We look upon it as, on the whole, one of the most helpful and suggestive contributions to what we should term spiritual theology that we have ever read. We cannot quote; we can only say—read.

Dr. Irons, in the "State, the Church, and the Synods of the Future," writes, as it seems to us, with too little decision. He believes that "a new era seems now to be commencing, both for the World and the Church," but he has very little to suggest in the way of accommodating his own Church to that era. He clearly looks forward to the possibility of the separation of Church and State, but does not say whether, in his judgment, this, on the whole, will be an event attended with good or with bad consequences. The main object of the essay is to trace the changes which have taken place in the synods of the past, and to anticipate with something like exuberance the "glorious field of Christian work which may lie before the primary conventions and the provincial and diocesan synods of a Free Church in coming days." The author then asks, "Is civil society ready for the changes thus shadowed forth?" But to this question no answer is given. Is it not always ready when God is ready?

Three "Essays" there are in this volume which are less Church than Christian. The first is Dr. Ellicott's, to which we have already referred; the second is in the "Religious Use of Taste," by the Rev. R. St. John Tyrwhitt. Exquisite in feeling and full of happy illustration, this essay can be read simply for enjoyment. There is a good deal of Ruskinism in it, but of a chastened order. It discusses with great honesty the use and misuse of art in religious worship and edifices, vindicating the former, while of course, not excusing the latter. The connection between art and morality naturally comes up in this discussion, and the following propositions are laid down:—1. There is no morality in the technical or material part of art, nor in the technical nor material merits of a picture. 2. Every artist, however, armed with his tools and his skill, is a moral agent. 3. It is historically true that the representative Arts were applied to sacred use from the first. 4. Artists have exercised visible spiritual power. Some illustrations are given, and then the author says,—

"Painters and sculptors have sworn for centuries by these great deeds or documents of man's power; there is a sort of eternal murmur about their fame, and even irrepressible reviewers have to let them alone. Surely, it is virtually because there is in them the witness of an excellent spirit, given to man by the Father of all Spirits. The fact is, that religious impressions are individual, just like artistic impressions. A Christian man in a serious temper will receive religious or spiritual impressions from pictures great and small. A Christian painter in a serious temper, as he is sure to be, engaged in a great work, will desire to produce spiritual impressions on the minds of men unborn, who may see what he has done when he has returned to his dust; and he will have his desire. The religion of pictures depends upon the religion of painters. Personal devotion is an element of grandeur, clearness, vigour, and purity in the artist, if he be an artist, craftsman, or *reveler* at all."

This is very true and very good; but has Mr. Tyrwhitt thought how such a principle may be, and should be, applied to Church and State?

We are glad to see and to read Professor Burrows' essay on "The Place of the Laity in Church Government." It is, what it should be, the essay of a layman, and as such it advocates the increased action of the laity in Church work. Nor merely this, for the author is disposed to give them increased power, not only in synods, but in the appointments to clerical offices. He advocates, in regard to this point, the principle of election, and is quite right in saying that "as the spirit of self-government takes possession of the Church, the demand for a share in the choice of rural deans will connect itself with the demand for some voice in the election of bishops, and in the choice of other ecclesiastical officers." He adds, in a note, that "without a compromise on this point the Church cannot long hold together." Professor Burrows thinks that all this can be done under the pre-

sent constitution of Church and State, but he sees that, unless it can be done immediately, there will be a new constitution, which must be accepted. He says that the whole future of the Church of England depends, humanly speaking, on the use which will be made of the next year or two, and that "there is yet time, if Churchmen exert themselves, to show such a front as will more than resist the attacks about to be made upon them." This "if," however, involves the whole question, and, we imagine, everything points to the fact that it will not be resolved in favour of the Church.

The third catholic essay in this volume is on "The Private Life and Ministrations of the Parish Priest," by the Rev. W. W. How, which every minister of the Gospel might read with great profit. It is full of the spirit of George Herbert, and is worthy to be read with that still inimitable country pastor. We can only particularise, in few words, the remaining papers in the volume. Mr. Haddan's paper on "The English Divines of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries" is to be protested against for the manner in which it conceals the intolerance of the Church, and exaggerates the intolerance of the Nonconformists. Mr. Sadler's Essay on "Liturgies and Ritual" is an able and successful vindication of the High Church as distinguished from the Roman and the Ritualistic Services. "Indian Missions," by Sir Bartle Frere, seems out of place; but it is a good summary of Church work in the East Indies, and contains emphatic testimony against State interference. Dr. Barry's Essay on "The Church and Education" is now to some extent out of date; but it is remarkable for urging, on catholic grounds, the adoption of the Conscience Clause. We are disappointed in Mr. MacLagan's Essay on "The Church and the People," as well as in Dr. Weir's on "Conciliation and Comprehension." Both these essays want breadth. When Dr. Weir says, and says only—"Let a generous and friendly attitude be assumed to those amongst Nonconformists who show any disposition to return to the Church of their fathers," he indicates the narrowness of his sympathies, as well as the absurdity of his recommendation.

"The Church and the Age," while it contains papers which reach beyond the bounds of a sect, does not, on the whole, deal comprehensively with the subject. It is clearly impossible for some of the writers to grasp the subject in its magnitude. Dr. Ellicott does this, and so do Mr. Tyrwhitt and Mr. How. Other writers, for the most part, write from a sectarian point of view, virtually acknowledging, in the style of their essays, that the Church is, after all, only the Endowed Episcopalian sect in England. The whole ground is not by any means covered. Church abuses are scarcely, if at all, touched. We want a series of Essays by laymen not of the Church, on the same subject, in order that the writers in this volume should see things, not as the Church sees them, but as they appear to the "age" in which the Church lives.

FROM EAST TO EAST.

The East which used to be the land of mystery and marvel, whose language was a hieroglyph, and whose spirit breathed of magic, is now in some danger of being overdone by travellers and transformed into the region of prose *par excellence*. The bazaars of Cairo are no longer wrapt in the lingering glamour of an Arabian Night's enchantment; but are mere market-places where sharp tongues jabber and where hardest bargains are daily pushed. Even the Pyramids are nowadays "done" as part of the grand tour; and the prosaic conquests are year by year being pushed farther and farther. The strange still life of the Desert, and the romantic interest that clings to the rocky "wadys" of Palestine, are becoming so familiar that ordinary descriptions are in some danger of savouring of commonplace. Even the cow-peopled streets of holy Benares, with its lively monkey-people, seem not so very far off; and we appear to know the life of Peking only a little less exactly than we do that of the new Paris Boulevards. Is there not some fear that the world may soon feel too intensely the need of a great interest? If Livingstone were but safe home from his wide-wanderings in Africa, the tale were almost complete; we should welcome him with delight unspeakable, but have almost a trembling fear of his revelations. For here, as in so much else, the great evil is that in the very measure

The Magyars: their Country and Institutions. By ARTHUR J. PATTERSON. With Maps. In two Vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)
The Morning Land. By EDWARD DICEY. (Macmillan.)

A Diary in the East. During the Tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales. By W. H. RUSSELL. (Routledge.)

* *The Church and the Age: Essays on the Principles and Present Position of the Anglican Church.* Edited by A. WEIR, D.O.L., &c., and W. D. MACLAGAN, M.A. (London: John Murray.)

genuine interest grows less and less, it will be more and more simulated. When the highest personages, with their long train of servants and reporters, divert themselves by a season in the East—figures on whom the eyes of the world are accustomed to rest with curiosity in whatever circumstances they may for the time show themselves—it is inevitable that the scene itself should so far retire to form but a background to set off the central figures with the more effect. Not that we fail to appreciate the large mass of literature called forth by the recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the East. For most part, it is interesting and well worthy of the occasion; and never fails to give us fresh impressions of the inexhaustible curiosity and wealth of abiding associations which belong alone to that portion of the world.

But another thought has been forced upon us. Europe has its own East, about which we seem to know little compared with what we might. It so happened that Mr. Patterson's work on "The Magyars" came into our hands as we were reading Mr. Dicey's "Morning-Land," and before we had quite done with Dr. Russell's "Diary in the East." Putting the three works together, sandwich-wise, we find they have a significant relation which, in this special case, we are the more justified in noting and dwelling on in the fact of Mr. Dicey having something to say of Magyar-land at the outset of the Morning-Land. Was Mr. Dicey wrong in rubbing-in, even very broadly, in the foreground of his "Morning-Land," these few suggestive outlines of Magyar-land? No; Magyar-land seems an East to us yet, inasmuch as it is still largely shrouded in the mysteries of distance and of ignorance. Notwithstanding British sympathy with Hungarian patriotism, its admiration of the poet Petöfi, and its ready appreciation of the daring Hungarian traveller, Vambery, "The Dervish," the fact of Mr. Patterson's book being so fresh and full of interest as it is, is proof enough that Hungary has been hitherto to a greater extent than it should have been an unknown land. It can scarcely be so henceforth. Mr. Patterson has brought it near to us, and in a most attractive manner. His book is not a mere diary recording the hurried impressions of a run through the country, but a careful digest of the large results of a long period spent among the people; and it breathes a loving sympathy with them in their labours, their efforts, and their achievements. His book has all the value of history, and it is as lightly written as a novel. A vast mass of information—valuable alike to the politician, the traveller, and the man of letters—is here presented in the most skilful form. The main general point of interest which Mr. Patterson claims for his clients is this:—

"The East of Europe, comprising the three empires of Russia, Austria, and Turkey, is at present in a state of unstable equilibrium, if it were not more correct to describe it as a political chaos. In it Hungary and Rumania are the two most clearly defined elements in striking antagonism to each other. It has been well observed that what makes Russia so interesting is the fact that it is an Aryan nation working its way towards European civilisation, without having passed through the preparatory school of Feudalism and Latin Christianity. Hungary, on the contrary, is interesting as being the only non-Aryan nation that has been subjected to the discipline of Latin Christianity, and, in a modified form, to that of the feudal system, and has been recognised as a member of the European family. This unique position of the Magyars can hardly fail to interest other students of history beside myself."

The Magyars, then, are those who originally constituted the Hungarian Kingdom, and who are still the bond keeping together in one nationality the Finnish and other Turanian hordes who have from time to time passed over into that territory. They are an interesting people, full of spirit and yet industrious, delighting in show and decoration, yet with a peculiar dash of gravity and cautiousness in their character. Mr. Patterson well points out the effect that their geographical position has had upon their development:—

"A large portion of Hungary consists of a fertile plain. This plain was, from its great extent, difficult to defend; but this difficulty has been increased by the circumstance that, in historical times, one homogeneous people never occupied the plain together with its natural fortifications—the whole semicircular range of the Carpathians from Presburg to Orsova. At the present time, Hungarians (Magyars) occupy the plain, Slavonic tribes the northern Carpathians, and Wallachs, or Daco-Romans, the Eastern."

Turkish invasion, and threats and fears of an invasion, were for long the curse of Hungary. "These Turkish wars are the key to much of the recent history of Hungary. They prolonged what may be called its mediæval period down to the beginning of the eighteenth century. They threw the country so far behind the rest of Europe in respect of material improvement that it has not recovered the lost ground." For nearly half a century the whole activity of the nation was spent in a contest between the aristocracy and

the lower orders; but no sooner was that brought to a settlement than the victory of the combined Russian and Austrian armies in 1849 inaugurated a new order of things, and Hungary was in a position of chronic revolt up till 1867, when a constitution was given which has ensured peace. Then certain privileges were bestowed upon the Hungarian Diet—every session a number of its members being elected to sit with the same number elected by the Austrian Reichsrath, and these delegations meet alternately at Vienna and at Pesth. Though their powers are limited, and their machinery of debate by messages is very cumbrous, yet the system seems to work better than might be expected. In a series of most interesting chapters Mr. Patterson considers the main elements of political and social life in detail, descants on the literature and on anomalies in law, and gives graphic pictures of domestic life. Altogether his book is a complete manual for this large and important division of eastern Europe.

Mr. Dicey's picture of Hungary is, of course, merely an outside and passing one. This character more or less marks his book throughout. But he is peculiarly happy in his little word pictures, and abounds in the most felicitous illustrations, occasionally bringing the scene very vividly before the mind's eye by comparison of it with others near at hand, with which we are well acquainted. He has not only a quick eye, but warm sympathies, and had he only enjoyed what was inevitably denied him from the circumstances under which he wrote—i. e. a longer residence in the various places visited—he would without a doubt have written a book that would have had permanent value. As it is, the work is kaleidoscopic, bits of fine colour are laid half recklessly on the canvas, and there is a pressure of constant motion and forced facetiousness which was justifiable enough in newspaper letters, but which might have been somewhat reduced in the book without loss either to author or to reader. But now and then he has a valuable hint to convey, which he always does in the easiest and most pleasant terms. Take this, for instance, which travellers in the future may think a "wrinkle," and be thankful for:—

"To visit the chief mosques of Constantinople a firman is required, which may be obtained through your dragoman for the price of about four Turkish pounds, or three pounds twelve shillings English. This valuable piece of information is contained in every guide to Constantinople that I have seen, and is naturally confirmed by the dragomans and valets de place of your hotel. In order to diminish the expense, you are further advised to make up a party—as one firman, like a blank cheque, may be filled up for any number of figures. I can, however, suggest, from my own experience, a far better mode of reducing the expense; and that is not to take a firman at all. Pick up any one of the countless touts who hang about the Bridge of Pera, and pester you with offers of their services, and you may see every mosque you fancy, without trouble or bother, at the cost of a very few shillings. At the same time, in order to visit the mosques pleasantly, you must take care that your guide is not over careful of your interests—not over anxious to secure you against being overcharged. This proviso may appear to the intelligent reader as if it were meant ironically, but it is written in sober earnest. All sorts of odd things occur in the East. The other day I had my passage fare returned to me on leaving the quay of a river steamboat, because I had got out a station short of that for which I had taken my ticket; and so to-day, in my visit to the mosques, I fell upon a cicerone who erred by excess of honesty."

The East is not yet destitute of mystery and marvel! A place where you can see sights for nothing, save what you give of your own good pleasure, and where, if you get out of a river steamer at the station before the one you are booked for, you get back your money, surely deserves a good name. We are afraid that there is some danger of the two things being now tried once too often!

As for Dr. Russell, he is a master in his own style of work. He is *facile princeps* in a kind of exquisite literary scene-painting. Take his account as a whole, it is excellent; begin to examine the parts and you find them faultless, and yet when you come to look at them together again, you really don't feel that the whole is so perfect as you had thought it before. But Dr. Russell writes in a strong, graphic, and impressive manner. In his style he is more dignified than Mr. Dicey, in spite of the dash with which the scene is thrown off; but as Dr. Russell keeps more firmly by his party we see things more from the associated point of view, if we may venture to speak so. On this account, "The Diary in the East" is most readable and interesting, and here and there an old picture is touched afresh with great success, simply because of Dr. Russell's happy manner of proceeding as if it had never been touched before—a most excellent quality in one, who has, for most part, to go over beaten ground. What could be better than this, for instance:—

"We ascended by the zigzag path, which is 'the way of the wilderness,' taken by David when he fled from Absalom, keeping by the walls which enclose on one

side the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the other 'The Chapel of the Tomb of the Virgin,' and so reached the top, from which a concentrated view lies before one of the city and of its environs. It is a place for silence. Nearly every spot connected with the history of Jerusalem, and with the incidents of our Lord's life, is near. There, with the citadel rising above it, the English Church, and the Armenian convent contending for its possession, is the Mount of Zion on the left. Below it is the tomb of David. In front of us is the Haran, where Oran the Jebusite threshed out his corn on the floor. There is Moriah, on which Abraham built the altar to offer up his son Isaac. That path leads to Jericho—this to Bethany—there is the road to Bethlehem. Turn and look over that weary waste of rock, rolling away in rigid waves—you see 'the wilderness of Judea.' Mark that gulf near the horizon. In its depths the Jordan is pursuing its course. And catch that gleam, like the opening of a rift, through which comes a glint of blue sky in storm clouds. It is the Dead Sea. There, beyond, dwell the Moabites and Ammonites, and there were the people of Gilead. A waste of rock and stones! But it possesses wonderful beauty at sunset, when it abounds in colour and is rich in lights and shadows."

BRIEF NOTICES.

Winer's Grammar of New Testament, Greek. Translated and enlarged by the Rev. W. F. MOULTON, M.A. (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.) *Winer's Grammatik* has long taken the first rank, not simply as a grammar, but as, in the best sense, a commentary on the Scriptures of the Greek Testament. It is the constant indispensable companion of the student who seeks to read the gospels and epistles with accuracy and precision. Indeed, Winer may fairly claim the credit of having reduced the grammatical constructions of the New Testament to a science with settled principles and fixed rules. On previous occasions, however, we have so fully expressed our sense of the immense value of this work, that we need only add a word or two on the characteristics of the new edition before us. Mr. Moulton has aimed, besides adding valuable indices and verifying references, to supplement Winer's work, and to raise the latest level of knowledge by incorporating with it whatever of special value he has found in recent German productions, and especially in the grammars of Buttmann and Leipsius, and in the commentary of Meyer. He has also availed himself of the labours of the latest grammatical labours of English classical scholars, whether these have borne fruit in recent editions of classic authors, or in grammars such as those of Donaldson and Jelf. And, moreover, while in every other department he gives us the benefit of his own original investigations, he has taken special pains to indicate the many points of coincidence between modern Greek and the Greek of the inspired penman. In short, competent learning and indefatigable industry have at last placed in the hands of English readers a well-nigh perfect edition of the completest and most scientific grammar of the New Testament Greek. Of course it is not a grammar for beginners; but neither is it a grammar which only profound and accomplished scholars can use. Every student of the Word will find it an invaluable book of reference, and by availing himself of the indices, which point out where the difficulties of every passage are explained, may get a reliable and welcome aid from the book, even though he should never fully master it. The only drawback which we have to note in this edition is, that it is printed in German type on German paper; and though both type and paper are much better than one commonly finds in German books, they are nevertheless a little trying to the eyes and state of English readers.

The Starling. By NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D. (London: Strahan and Co.) This new edition of Dr. Macleod's charming story cannot fail to be welcome. There is a sweet healthy tone of humour in it which is likely to make it far more effectual against the exaggerated precision of Scotch Sabbatarianism than whole tones of learned controversy. Quite apart from its special intention, however, the story is one which men and children will love for its own sake. Its style is natural and forcible. It abounds with good sense and good humour. And, though his keen eyes and graphic pen have enabled Dr. Macleod to animate every person in the story, from the Raven down to Jock, with the very breath of life, he depicts them with a humanity so broad and generous, and sets them so fairly before us, that we have a certain liking for his worse characters, and even a sneaking kindness for Elder Smellie himself.

Essays and Stories. By the late G. W. BOSANQUET. With Introduction by Capt. C. R. BRACKENBURY, B.A. (London: Sampson Low and Co.) A sad and peculiar interest attaches to anything connected with youthful promise suddenly cut down in its bloom. Mr. Bosanquet died in his twenty-fifth year. He had entered the army, but circumstances compelled him to withdraw from it, and he found an appointment thereafter in the Civil Service. He seems to have been not only a man of gifts, but of many graces. There is such tenderness and purity of pathos about the little stories we have here as atones for some monotonousness and lack of strength, and in the essays on "Promotion in the Army," "Religion in the Army," and the "Rise and Progress of Combinations among Workmen," we see a young mind anxious and exercised as to how it can really do some good in the world. One or two of the sketches were written for the common soldiers, in whom

Mr. Bonanquet seems to have taken a lively interest. He was evidently of peculiarly open and susceptible temperament, and had not a few doubts and difficulties, which, however, he wisely overcame by an incessant activity in self-improvement, always with a view towards practical benevolence. We trace, indeed, a fineness almost feminine, which must have rendered the soldier's life incongenial and irksome, had it not at the same time held out large opportunities for aiding others. There is evidence of much reading and not a little thought and practical wisdom in the essay on "Combination," and he gives a good deal of information as to "Religion in the Army." This, from the paper on "Promotion," gives an idea of his style:—

It is perfectly evident that, in our system of promotion, no pretence is made to select the best men for the highest places; the object of each man is simply to get up as fast as he can. Nevertheless, strange to say, the system works well. The reason is, that men who have entered the army merely as an amusement, generally leave it before they attain the higher regimental ranks. They get back the money which they invested and quit the profession. Thus, for the more part, those only reach the higher ranks of the army who have long since determined to make it their business in earnest, and to give their lives to it. . . . With regard to altering the system, the first thing to remember is the immense expense which would be entailed on the country. . . . The compensation alone would amount to some millions. Then, if it were wished to obtain a set of officers who would enter the army as the profession of their lives, the pay of all ranks must be much increased. At present, a colonel who has invested some thousands of pounds in buying his steps, has served thirty years in all climates, and has in all likelihood shattered his health by so doing, may, if he be lucky—very lucky, I should say—obtain a retiring pension of 365*l.* a year from his grateful country. The work is done cheap, I think, considering how nobly and gallantly it is generally performed. One would have thought that a rich nation like England might afford a larger sum to render comfortable in their declining years those who serve her so well in the burden and heat of the day. But I suppose that, so long as our work is well done at the present price, we shall never, of our own free will, offer anything more."

The Lord's Prayer. Lectures by the Rev. ADOLPHE SAPHIR, B.A., Greenwich. (James Nisbet and Co.) These lectures have a special value. Not that they are peculiarly eloquent or have many elements of popularity in them; but rather because they are the result of large exegetical study and bring us directly and indirectly into contact with some of the more learned Germans, who are only too little known and studied here—such as Oetinger. But Mr. Saphir has crowned a ripe scholarship by wide and sympathetic acquaintance with higher English literature; so that not seldom we have fresh lights thrown upon what we had fancied we were already so familiar with as to have seen and seized all its more salient significance. This work bears evidence of much research and thought, and besides bears the impress of independence, so that we feel the more free to draw to it the attention of all who are interested in such studies. And this we say though we are far from being at one with the author in some of his Messianic ideas.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

MM. Emile Ollivier and Jules Janin have been elected members of the French Academy.

Dr. Charles Mendelssohn is collecting materials for an exhaustive biography of his father, the great composer.

The cantata to be written for the Birmingham Festival by M. Barnett, has for its subject Moore's "Paradise and the Peri."

A popular artist has already sold his contributions to the forthcoming Royal Academy Exhibition for 10,000*l.*

Mr. Disraeli's new novel, "Lothair," will be published on the 2nd of May. The event has excited considerable interest. It is reported that a proposal was made to the author of 10,000*l.*, and another offer of 4,000*l.* for its use in a periodical.—*Athenæum*.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL AND ORGANIC DUST.—A letter is addressed to the *Times* by Professor Tyndall on the subject of his recent discoveries with respect to the presence of organic particles in the atmosphere. He incidentally supplies an important link in the chain of data by which we arrive at the conclusion that the dust which disappears over the flame is not merely displaced but actually consumed. He describes an experiment thus:—"One evening towards the close of last year, while pouring out various gases across the dust track of a beam in the laboratory of the Royal Institution, the thought occurred to me of displacing by my breath the illuminated dust. I then noticed, for the first time, the extraordinary darkness produced by the air expired towards the end of an expiration." The last circumstance furnishes the proof. The innermost air in the lung, that which has passed through the tubes with their lining of ciliated epithelium, is strained, and freed from the particles which float in the atmosphere. This innermost air, of course, is the last to leave the lung, and passes out "towards the end of the expiration." It was when this air was blown into the track of the illuminating beam of light that the blackness appeared, and "towards the end of an expiration," when the expulsive force is weakest. These two facts, the appearance of the darkness when the strained air is passing out of the lung, and when the blowing power is most feeble, taken together, amount to demonstrative evidence that the cloud is not displaced, and yet that it is the

absence of dust that occasions the appearance of darkness.

THE SUN.—On Saturday Mr. J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., in concluding his fourth lecture on this subject before the Royal Institution, made the following general remarks about the nature of the sun. The sun after all is nothing but the nearest star; it is also a variable star, for the spots upon it, as proved by observations extending over the last fifty years, are very plentiful at some periods, and very scarce at other periods; the interval between two maximum periods or two minimum periods, is about eleven years. We are now in a maximum period. There is also some connection between the spots on the sun and the sun's family of planets, for the positions of the planets, more especially of Mercury and Venus, have an influence upon the area of the spots on the sun. The sun cannot be a ball of fire, for if it were, it would burn itself out in a ridiculously short space of time, and there is reason to suppose that it is a hot globe now slowly cooling. If we accept the hypothesis of Laplace, that the sun was formed originally by the condensation of a tremendous nebula, it is not difficult to imagine that it is now slowly cooling; and as it had an enormous initial temperature to start with, the cooling will go on through untold ages until at last, having absorbed all its surrounding planets into its mass, it will in the end roll through space a cold dark ball. Afterwards, perhaps, it may clash against another dark ball like itself, and the force of the blow may be proved by calculation to be sufficient to generate light and heat, a new sun, and other worlds. The Rev. F. Howlett, of Alton, in a letter to the *Times* says:—"Another enormous spot of very irregular form, but, up to this date, of one continuous surface, 54,000 miles in mean length and 80,000 miles in mean breadth, is traversing the sun's northern hemisphere, and possesses a superficial area of about 1,620,000,000 square miles. In addition to this great single spot there is a group of two fair-sized spots in the northern hemisphere, besides six other groups in the southern hemisphere, mostly of a very scattered and irregular description. The total area of the whole of these spots cannot be estimated at less than 3,000,000,000 square miles. I have never, during a period of twenty years, seen so great a disturbance."

Music.

MR. BARNBY'S CHOIR.

On Wednesday evening last a performance of Sebastian Bach's "Grosse Passions-Musik" was given by Mr. Barnby's Choir in Exeter Hall. We may congratulate Mr. Barnby on having achieved a more successful representation of this great work than has fallen to the lot of any English musician who has preceded him. Dr. Sterndale Bennett first introduced it to the English public—after Mendelssohn had brought it before the German public—and it has been performed three or four times under Dr. Bennett's direction by the choir of the Bach Society. The late Prince Consort was a great admirer of this music, and was present at a public performance in St. Martin's Hall twelve years ago, as well as at a private performance at Windsor Castle on the eve of Easter, 1859. At that time, however, St. Martin's Hall was more than large enough for any audience that could be attracted by the "Passions-Musik." The English musical public has had a great amount of education in the higher class of music during the last ten years, and nothing can more strikingly show the result of this than the magnificent audience that was collected this day week to hear Bach's great oratorio—an audience that filled every part of the spacious hall. Of the performance itself we are able to speak in terms of high praise. Some of the choruses and chorales were given with a precision and accuracy little short of perfection. Others, as might have been expected, were a little unsteady; and one short chorus, "He guilty is of death," although by no means one of the most difficult, was almost spoiled. On the whole, however, the choral singing was admirable—the gradations of light and shade well marked, the spirit of the words clearly expressed, the different leads taken up with boldness and decision, the difficult intervals hit with accuracy and aplomb. One of the choruses, the magnificent declamation in which the thunder and lightning, and the terrors of Divine judgment, are invoked on the instruments of the Saviour's betrayal and capture, was irresistibly encored.

The solo parts were given by Messrs. Thomas and Cummings, Madame Rudersdorff, and Mdlle. Drasdil; the last-named taking the place of Madame Dolby on short notice. Although some of the most impressive parts of the recitatives are for the bass, yet, on the whole, the melodies assigned to the bass voice are less interesting than those belonging to other voices. On this account we are rather surprised that the best bass aria in the whole book is omitted—"Come, blessed Cross." Mendelssohn is responsible generally for these necessary omissions, but as it is well known that he had a great admiration for this song, we may be allowed to plead for its restoration in future

performances. Mr. Cummings delivered the numerous recitatives and airs assigned to the tenor with much true expression. The very trying airs which describe the scene in Gethsemane rise to such a noble elevation of devout sentiment as few singers are capable of expressing. Mr. Cummings's interpretation of them was very meritorious, but his success was more conspicuous in other parts—as for instance, in his touching delivery of the phrase, "He went out and wept bitterly." The soprano music was beautifully rendered by Madame Rudersdorff. Few singers could have represented with more fervency and depth of emotion the wonderful tenderness and passionate anguish of the air, "Break and die, thou dearest heart." To Madame Rudersdorff, also, was assigned the air which is written for an alto, and is sometimes sung by a barytone—"Have mercy upon me, O, Lord!"—the aria which expresses the tearful penitence of Peter. The leading obligato accompaniment is written for a solo violin, which, by its phrases of restless, piercing melody, heightens the effect of the pleading, supplicating lament uttered by the voice. There is nothing in the whole work—nothing that we know of in the whole range of musical literature—more inexpressibly beautiful than this air.

There are numerous other points of interest, both in the solo and the choral music, besides those referred to in the notice which appeared in our columns a fortnight ago. We may especially refer to the short, agitated chorus on the words, "Lord, is it I?"—the alto solo, admirably sung by Mdlle. Drasdil, "Alas! now is my Saviour gone?" with chorus in response, with which the second part opens; the very ideal of musical interrogation, in which pain mingles with the asking, the suspense of the unanswered question being powerfully indicated by the abrupt and unfinished ending on the common chord of the dominant:—the dramatic surprise of the chorus of three notes, shouting "Barabbas!"—the weird, rugged, harsh chorus, with its cruel intervals and fugal successions from the bass upwards, to the words, "Let Him be crucified," which is repeated a tone higher:—the exquisite sweetness, the appealing, inviting, patient earnestness of the alto melody, "See the Saviour's outstretched arm";—and, last of all, the final strain of soothing requiem which is sung by the chorus, commending the Saviour to eternal peace and rest, after the sorrows of the Passion are over. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Barnby and his choir for producing in such quick succession two works like Beethoven's Mass in D, and Bach's Passion Music. We hope the enterprising conductor will be encouraged, by the unequivocal success of last Wednesday's performance, to persevere in his high aims, and keep these great works before the English public.

MR. LESLIE'S CONCERTS.

Mr. Henry Leslie gave the fourth of his Subscription Concerts on Thursday last in St. James's Hall. The programme was a most attractive one of sacred music, and the audience showed its appreciation thereof by attending in large numbers, and calling for nearly everything a second time. The first piece thus honoured was a part song, "The Pilgrims," by Henry Leslie, the words being by Miss Adelaide Procter. It well deserved all the applause it got—the words are charming, the music most appropriate, and the performance was all that could be desired. Another very beautiful piece was Schubert's psalm for female voices, "The Lord is my Shepherd," sung with great effect by the ladies of the choir. Miss Edith Wynne, Madame Poole, and Mr. George Perren, were the soloists of the evening. The only song which needs any comment on account of its novelty was, "Oh, that though hadst hearkened," from Arthur S. Sullivan's "Prodigal Son," an air of great beauty and melody, sung with exquisite pathos by Miss Edith Wynne. A trio by Mr. Henry Leslie, "Love, gentle, holy, pure," was another gem, sung by Miss Wynne, Madame Poole, and Mr. Perren. The poetry is a verse from Keble's "Christian Year," and the music is worthy of it, chaste, melodious, and full of beautiful harmony.

Mr. Leslie announces a series of four concerts, three of which are morning concerts, and the fourth his own benefit concert. Among other artists he promises the attraction of Mesdames Nilsson, Ilma di Muraka, Arabella Goddard, and Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley, and Charles Hallé.

Good Friday will, as usual, be a great day at the Crystal Palace. There is to be a grand concert in the Handel Orchestra at half-past three, conducted by Mr. Manns, comprising an unusual array of talent. The following are the principal artistes:—Madame Rudersdorff, Mdlle. Carola, Madame Florence Lancia, Mdlle. Drasdil, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Signor Urio, Signor Foli, Mr. Aynsley Cook, Mr. Thomas

Harper, &c. Besides the orchestral band of the company, the full band of the Royal Artillery (conducted by Mr. J. Smyth) will take part in the concert, and will also play selections of sacred music from two o'clock. For the first time this season the entire series of great fountains will be played.

Miscellaneous.

THE EAST DEVON ELECTION.—The election of a representative to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Lord Courtenay, took place at Exeter on Saturday. Mr. J. H. Kennaway, Conservative, the eldest son of Sir John Kennaway, was the only candidate proposed, and he was returned without opposition.

THE DIVISION ON THE IRISH LAND BILL.—Many Liberals voted in favour of Mr. Fowler's amendment on the Irish Land Bill on Thursday night. Amongst them were Sir R. Anstruther, Mr. Aytoun, Mr. H. R. Brand, Lord Burke, Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Mr. R. W. Duff, Mr. C. Fitzwilliam, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Wren Hoskyns, Mr. J. D. Lewis, Sir J. Ramsden, Mr. F. Tollemache, and Mr. Whalley.

THE NORWICH BRIBERY PROSECUTIONS.—It appears that Mr. Justice Blackburn, who passed sentence upon Robert Hardiment on his conviction for bribery at the last Norwich municipal election, has declined to make an order placing him in the first class of misdemeanants. The prisoner has, consequently, been relegated to the prison dress, and is treated as an ordinary misdemeanant, and his friends propose to obtain, if possible, a mitigation of his sentence.

THE LOSS OF THE NORMANDY.—The Court of Inquiry into the loss of the Normandy gave judgment on Monday. It declared that the Normandy was alone to blame for the collision, and that the captain of the Mary did all he could not only to avoid the collision, but also to save life; and it therefore ordered his certificate to be returned. It commented upon the irresolute conduct of the second mate of the Mary, in returning for orders after being dispatched to render assistance to the crew of the Normandy.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.—The treasurer of the Ladies' London Committee for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts begs us to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 100*l.* anonymously from "one who was at first inclined to think favourably of the Acts, but has decided, after careful study of the question, that they are immoral in tendency, and do not attain the objects sought." We are also requested to state that a distinct fund has been established at the offices of the London Committee, 50, Great Marlborough-street, for the aid and defence of women suffering under these Acts, and it is hoped that many who have been unable to subscribe to the general purposes of the association, will feel that this is an object to which they can gladly contribute.

THE ELECTION OF GUARDIANS IN ST. PANCRA.—More than 30,000 votes were recorded at the election of guardians in St. Pancras last week, and the scrutiny was completed on Saturday. Of eighteen candidates started by the new Ratepayers' Association in opposition to the members of the late board, twelve were successful. Among the re-elected candidates was Dr. Edmunds, whose name was made prominent in connection with the recent Poor Law inquiry. Although in the aggregate there were 33,522 votes recorded for the whole of the candidates, that number was attained by the plurality of voting in operation under the act, and probably did not represent more than from 10,000 to 12,000 individual voters.

VERY PECULIAR PEOPLE.—Four children, whose parents belong to the sect known as "Peculiar People," have lately died in Essex, through the absence of the necessary medical aid in time of sickness. These people, instead of fetching a doctor in case of illness, send for the elders of the church, who lay hands on the afflicted one, and anoint him with oil. The father of one of the deceased children has been convicted at the Orsett Petty Sessions of having neglected to provide the required medical assistance; but he was discharged on promising to come up for judgment when called upon. The defendant, however, declared that he should continue to act as he had hitherto done.

BUTCHERS AND THEIR PRICES.—On Friday, at the Sheffield Town-hall, a calf-dealer, named James Harrison, of Ashford-on-the-Water, Derbyshire, was charged with having in his possession carcasses of sheep unfit for human food. The case was proved, and the defendant was fined 10*s.* for each case. In the course of the evidence, Mr. Joshua Fawley, a wholesale butcher, said that mutton cost 7*s.* 6*d.* or 8*s.* per stone (14*lb.*), but he could supply it at 5*s.* 2*d.*, the price being simply a question of competition. The solicitor for the defence asked the witness if it was a fact that good mutton, which was sold at 7*s.* 6*d.* per stone, could be sold at 5*s.* 2*d.* Witness: Yes; the very same mutton we sell in my shop at 7*s.* 6*d.*, I supply the Sheffield workhouse with at 5*s.* 2*d.* I have had the supply of all the troops for the whole county of York. It was remarked in court that there must be "a glorious profit somewhere."

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.—After nine defeats in as many years, in which the Cambridge crew has been beaten by distances varying from one to six boats' lengths, victory has once more fallen to the representatives of the Light Blue. When Wednesday morning broke, a thick yellow fog hung heavily over both town and river, but it cleared away as the day advanced, and in the afternoon there was a

cloudless sky, with a light southern breeze. The race was rowed shortly after five o'clock, Oxford, as usual, winning the toss, but choosing, on this occasion, the Surrey side of the water. The careful training of the Cantabs was made manifest from the beginning of the struggle, and although the champions of the Dark Blue desperately strove to retain the honour which has so often fallen to their lot, their opponents won by a length. The crowd was enormous. The people lined the banks of the river by hundreds of thousands; they were densely packed upon the bridges, and watched the spectacle from the trees and the tops of the houses. At Mortlake the throng was immense, and the tremendous enthusiasm with which the intelligence of the result was received testified to the popular sympathy with the courage and the fortitude which have again brought Cambridge to the front after such a long run of disappointment and defeat. We learn by a cable telegram that the New York papers express a hope that the victorious Cambridge crew will go over to the United States and row against Harvard.

Gleanings.

26,000 volunteers are expected to attend the review at Brighton on Monday next.

Over one hundred young ladies are estimated to be at present studying law in the States. What a prospect for the courts!

A new wire is about to be laid down between Liverpool and Valencia, for the exclusive use of American messages.

A clergyman in New York offers up prayers for the Legislature of that State, which, he says, is "disposed to repeal even the Ten Commandments."

Uneasiness is beginning to be felt for the City of Brussels, and twenty guineas have been paid as insurance upon her.

At the Preston Quarter Sessions a man and woman have been convicted of theft by the evidence of their own child aged nine!

A process has been invented in France by M. Hurtault for rendering petroleum inexplosive, by adding to it a certain quantity of amylie alcohol.

A message, dated Calcutta, Saturday, half-past twelve noon, was received by the Indo-European Telegraph Company at half-past ten, thus beating the sun by two hours.

The bequest of the late Mr. Samuel Bailey, amounting to nearly 120,000*l.*, to the trustees of the town of Sheffield, is to be disputed by the next of kin.

Mr. Spurgeon is famed for his quaintness. He described Mr. Macgregor, of the Rob Roy, the other evening, as "one who can serve his God," and at the same time "paddle his own canoe."

Mr. W. Inman expresses his belief that if the City of Boston is lost, it must be attributed to running into the ice to the eastward, and perhaps northward, of Cape Race.

The returns of London pauperism still show an excess on last year. In the fourth week of March the total number of persons in receipt of relief was 163,677 as against 151,803 last year.

A great Polar expedition is being prepared in Sweden, for the years 1871 and 1872, under the direction of Professor Nordenfjöld, the celebrated scientific leader of the Swedish Expedition of 1868.

The *Engineer* states that iron shipbuilding is taking very large proportions on the Tyne, and the success of the Suez Canal is likely to exercise a most potent influence upon this important branch of industry in the north-eastern ports generally.

YANKEE CURIOSITY.—A well-known citizen of Hartford, Connecticut, a few days ago had taken his seat in the train for Providence, when a small, weazened-faced man, having the appearance of a farmer, came into the car. The gentleman good-naturedly made room for him by his side, and the old man looked him over from head to foot. "Going to Providence?" he said, at length. "No, sir," the stranger answered, politely; "I stop at Andover."

"I belong out that way myself. Expect to stay long?" "Only over night, sir." "Did you call late to put up at the tavern?" "No, sir; I expect to stop with Mr. Skinner." "What, Job Skinner's? Or maybe it's his brother's? Was it Tim Skinner's—Squire Tim's—where you was going?" "Yes," said the gentleman, smiling, "it was Squire Tim's." "Dew tell if you are goin' there to stop over night! Any connexion of his'n?" "No, sir." "Well, now, that's curious! The old man ain't got into any trouble nor nothin' has he?" lowering his voice; "ain't goin' to serve a writ onto him, be ye?" "Oh, no, nothing of the kind." "Glad on't. No harm in askin', I s'pose. I reckon Miss Skinner's some connection of yourn?" "No," said the gentleman. Then, seeing the amused expression on the faces of two or three acquaintances in the neighbouring seats, he added, in a confidential tone, "I am going to see Squire Skinner's daughter." "Law sakes!" said the old man, his face quivering with curiosity. "That's it, is it? I want to know! Goin' to see Mirandy Skinner, be ye? Well, Mirandy is a nice gal—kinder hombly, and long-favoured, but smart to work, they say, and I guess you're about the right age for her, too. Kept company together long?" "I never saw her in my life, sir." "How you talk! Somebody's gin her a recommendation, I s'pose, and you're goin' clear out there to take a squint at her! Wa'al, I must say there's as likely gals in Andover as Mirandy Skinner. I've got a family of grown-up darters myself. Never was married afore, was yer? Don't see no weed on your

hat." "I have been married about fifteen years, sir. I have a wife and five children." And then, as the long-restrained mirth of the listeners to this dialogue burst forth at the old man's open-mouthed astonishment, he hastened to explain, "I am a doctor, my friend, and Squire Skinner called at my office this morning to request my professional services for his sick daughter." "Wa'al, now!" And the old bore waddled off into the next car.—*Harper's Monthly.*

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGE.

HOBSON-STEWART.—April 9, at Holloway Congregational Church, by the father of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Geo. Mather, Henry Hobson, Esq., of Highbury-hill, to Kezia, daughter of the Rev. Alexander Stewart, of Camden-road, N.

DEATHS.

BENNETT.—April 10, at his residence, 3, Alma-road, Dalston, the Rev. Jno. Bennett, late of Northampton, and for twenty-six years pastor of Doddridge Chapel, in that town, aged sixty-seven years. Friends will please, accept this intimation.

STALLYBRASS.—April 11, at 1, Overton Villas, Brixton, Clara, the beloved wife of the Rev. W. C. Stallybrass, aged forty-eight. Friends will kindly accept this notice.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, April 6.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£34,561,705	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	5,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	19,561,705
	£34,561,705		£34,561,705

RANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,827,312
Reserve	3,090,610	Other Securities ..	18,322,166
Public Deposits	8,325,582	Notes	11,113,440
Other Deposits	17,331,142	Gold & Silver Coin	911,053
Seven Day and other Bills	373,136		
	£43,673,470		£43,673,470

April 7, 1870.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Rheumatic Pains.—Many thousands of martyrs from rheumatism have found human life but one long disease, and, after consulting the most eminent medical men in vain, and trying all sorts of supposed remedies without relief, have grown weary of existence, and have ceased to hope for comfort on this side of the grave, until some lucky accident has called their attention to Holloway's Pills and Ointment. These are genuine remedies indeed. Persons bedridden for months with rheumatic pains and swellings, after the Ointment has been well rubbed into the parts affected, and the blood purified by a course of these Pills, have found themselves restored in an incredibly short time to perfect health and ease.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, April 11.

Of English as well as foreign wheat the supply was short for to-day's market. The small quantity on offer enabled factors to obtain last Monday's prices for English wheat. In foreign wheat we had only a retail trade, and for some qualities rather less money had to be taken. The flour trade was dull, and last week's quotations were slowly paid. Beans and peas were without change in value. Indian corn has improved in value 6*d.* to 1*s.* per qr. during the week. Of oats we have moderate arrivals. They met steady demand, at the quotation of Monday last. Of cargoes we have few fresh arrivals. Wheat barely supports late prices. Indian corn is in demand, at 1*s.* per qr. advance.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
WHEAT—	s. d.	s. d.
Essex and Kent, red, old	44 to 45	
Ditto new	37 43	
White, old	45 48	
„ new	39 47	
Foreign red	39 40	
„ white	42 44	
BARLEY—		
English malting ..	36 30	
Chevalier	34 40	
Distilling	30 34	
Foreign	29 32	
MALT—		
Pale	—	—
Chevalier	—	—
Brown	48 54	
BEANS—		
Ticks	34 35	
Harrow	36 38	
Small	—	—
Egyptian	34 37	
PEAS—		
Grey	31 to 33	
Maple	33 39	
White	33 36	
Boilers	33 36	
Foreign, boilers ..	33 35	
RYE	31 32	
OATS—		
English feed	18 20	
„ potato	23 24	
Scotch feed	—	—
„ potato	—	—
Irish black	16 18	
„ white	16 18	
Foreign feed	16 18	
FLOUR—		
Town made	34 40	
Country Marks ..	33 38	
Norfolk & Suffolk	28 29	

BREAD, Saturday, April 9.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for wheaten bread, per 4*lbs.* loaf, 6*d.* to 7*d.*; Household bread, 5*d.* to 6*d.*

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, April 11.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 6,421 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 10,459; in 1868, 4,191; in 1867, 9,705; and in 1866, 8,493 head. Depression has been the feature of the cattle trade to-day. Influenced by the warm weather, the heaviness in the dead meat markets, and the increased liberality of the receipts, the demand for all descriptions of stock has ruled inactive at reduced quotations. As regards beasts, the arrivals have been on a fair average scale, and the quality generally has been satisfactory. Business has progressed slowly, and a decline of 2*d.* per 8*lbs.* has taken place in prices. The best crosses have sold at 4*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 10*d.* per 8*lbs.* From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received about 1,500 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England about 450 various breeds; from Scotland 380 Scots and crosses; from Scotland 360 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland about 130 oxen. The show of sheep has been much more extensive. The trade has been very dull, at a decline of from 2*d.* to 4*d.* per 8*lbs.* The few prime sheep in the wool have been difficult to sell at 5*s.* 6*d.*, out of the wool the top price has been 4*s.* 8*d.* per 8*lbs.* There has been a moderate

supply of lambs in the market. Sales have progressed slowly, at from 7s. 6d. to 8s. per 8lbs. Calves have been quiet, and pigs have sold slowly.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.							
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 0 to 3 6	Prime Southdowns	5 4 to 5 8				
Second quality	3 10 4 4	Lambs	7 6 5 0				
Prime large oxen	4 6 4 8	Lge. coarse calves	3 10 4 10				
Prime So. &c.	4 8 4 10	Prime small	5 0 5 8				
Coarse inf. sheep	3 0 3 6	Large hogs	4 6 5 4				
Second quality	3 8 4 2	Neatam. porkers	5 6 5 8				
Pr. coarse woolled	4 10 5 2						

Suckling calves, 22s. to 26s., and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, April 11.—Moderate supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been quiet at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 695 packages from Hamburg, 17 Harlingen, and 2 from Rotterdam.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.							
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	3 0 to 3 4	Middling ditto	3 4 3 8				
Middling ditto	3 4 3 6	Prime ditto	4 0 4 4				
Prime large do.	3 10 4 2	Veal	4 4 4 8				
Do. small do.	4 2 4 4	Small pork	4 10 5 4				
Large Pork	3 6 4 2	Lambs	6 8 7 4				
Inf. mutton	3 0 3 4						

PROVISIONS, Monday, April 11.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 241 firkins butter, and 4,008 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 21,653 packages butter, 1,510 bales and 122 boxes bacon. With increasing supplies of foreign butter-prices have declined about 4s. per cwt. Bacon sold well, Irish at an advance of 2s. per cwt., but Hamburg rallied 6s. per cwt. from the late low prices, the sale for all descriptions was good. Lard sold well at an advance of about 1s. per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, April 9.—The market has been less active during the past week, and prices have barely been maintained, the importations being rather in excess. Foreign goods are offered at a reduction to effect sales. There has been another cargo of pines from the coast of Africa, somewhat better than the last. Flowers are plentiful and good, comprising azaleas, fairy roses, hyacinths, cyclamens, tulips, French and scarlet pelargoniums, heaths, etc.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, April 11.—Our market remains very dull, at nominal quotations, new home-growth alone retaining values approaching late figures. Yearlings of all kinds are unsaleable. Imports for the week ending 11th April, 1,835 bales, against 1,104 bales the previous week. The Continental markets rule very dull, with the same slight demand which has prevailed for so long past. New York advices to the 26th ult. report the market as very quiet, the small business transacted being entirely of a retail character. Mid and East Kents, 7l. 0s., 9l. 5s., to 12l. 12s.; Wealds, 6l. 0s., 7l. 0s., to 8l. 0s.; Sussex, 5l. 12s., 6l. 6s., to 6l. 13s.; Bavarians, 6l. 0s., 7l. 7s., to 9l. 0s.; French, 5l. 0s., 5l. 15s., to 6l. 10s.; Americans, 4l. 5s., 5l. 5s., to 6l. 0s.; Yearlings, 1l. 10s., 2l. 10s., to 3l. 15s.

POTATOES. — BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS. — Monday, April 11.—These markets have been scantily supplied with potatoes, nevertheless the demand has been inactive at about late rates. The import into London last week consisted of 1,023 bags from Antwerp, 3 baskets Amsterdam, 200 bags Brussels, 4 bags Rotterdam, and 2 baskets Marseilles English Shaws, 100s. to 130s. per ton; English Regents, 110s. to 130s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 90s. to 120s. per ton; Scotch rocks, 85s. to 100s. per ton; French kidneys, 90s. to 95s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, April 11.—English cloverseed continues to come forward in very small lots, and fine samples bring high prices. Foreign qualities were steady in value and demand. English trefoil sold at the full rates of last week, and foreign qualities were unaltered in price. Good white mustardseed realised previous values, with a steady sale. Canaryseed brought previous values readily. All grass seeds were in good request at quite as high rates. Foreign tares were taken off steadily at the extreme quotations of this day so'night.

WOOL, Monday, April 11.—A fair amount of firmness has been noticed in the market for English wool. Sales have progressed steadily, and prices have been well maintained.

OIL, Monday, April 11.—Linseed oil has been firm, at late rates. For rape there has been a fair inquiry, at full quotations; but other sorts have been flat.

TALLOW, Monday, April 11.—The trade has been dull, but firm. Y.C. spot, 45s. per cwt. Town Tallow 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, April 11.—Markets heavy, with 6d. to 9d. reduction on last day's rates. Belmont New, Wallsend, 16s. 6d.; Elliot, 17s.; Gosforth, 16s.; Hettons, 18s. 6d.; Harton, 16s.; Haswell, 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool original, 18s. 6d.; ditto East, 17s. 3d.; Hough Hall, 17s. 3d.; Kelloe, 16s. 6d.; Kelloe South, 17s. 3d.; Lambtons, 18s.; Trimden Thorley, 16s. 6d.; Eden Main, 16s. 6d.; Holywell Main, 15s. 6d.; Hartley's 14s. Ships fresh arrived, 113; ships left from last day, 4; ships at sea, 30.

Advertisements.

MONARCH INSURANCE COMPANY.

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ROYAL EXCHANGE AVENUE, LONDON,

AND

EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, LIVERPOOL.

SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL.

The ANNUAL SOIREE will be held on TUESDAY EVENING, May the 3rd, at the FREEMASONS' HALL.

Further particulars will be announced.

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeants'-Inn, Fleet-street.

WANTED, a few ASSISTANTS, possessing a thorough acquaintance with the text of the Sacred Scriptures, to aid in the COMPILATION of a WORK of BIBLICAL LITERATURE.—Applications to be addressed to Z., care of Rev. F. Rugby, Stretford, near Manchester.

CERTIFICATED MISTRESS, of Nonconformist principles, WANTED, for INFANTS, and to TEACH NEEDLEWORK to the GIRLS in a BRITISH SCHOOL—Address, Rev. J. H. Ouston, 17, Parson's-lane, Bury, Lancashire.

A YOUNG MAN, respectfully connected, requires a RE-ENGAGEMENT as ASSISTANT in a BOYS' SCHOOL, to teach English, with Latin and Mathematics, to Junior Classes.—Address, Tamba, Post-office, Stalham, Norwich.

MR. STREETER (Successor to

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GOLDSMITH and JEWELLER,

WATCH and CLOCK-MAKER

TO the ROYAL FAMILY,

37, CONDUIT-STREET,

BOND-STREET, LONDON, W.,

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18-CARAT GOLD JEWELLERY, also

WATCHES and CLOCKS,

MACHINE-MADE.

BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, „ £7 0

BRACELETS, NINEVEH, „ £10 0

BRACELETS, SAXON, „ £15 0

BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, „ £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, „ £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, „ £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, „ £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, „ £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, „ £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, „ £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, „ £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „ £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, „ £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „ £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, „ £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „ £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, „ £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, „ £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, „ £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, 1/2-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, 3/4-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, „ £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, „ £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, „ (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, „ „ (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, „ „ £10 12

CLOCKS, „ „ £14 0

CLOCKS, „ „ (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, „ „ £15 0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

BOUND in CLOTH, is now Ready,

POST FREE for TWO STAMPS, only of

MR. STREETER, 37, CONDUIT-STREET,

5 DOORS from BOND-STREET,

SUCCESSOR to HANCOCK & COMPTON,

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QUEENSLAND under the Land Act of 1868 and the Immigration Act of 1869. Land acquired on easy terms. Assisted and Free Passages. Information and particulars to be obtained on application.

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Removed from 2, Old Broad Street.

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ANNUAL INCOME, steadily increasing .. £227,000
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The Ninth Bonus will be declared in JANUARY, 1871, and all With-Profit Policies in force on the 30th JUNE, 1871, will participate. Assurances effected before JUNE 30th, 1870, will participate on two Premiums, and thus receive a whole year's additional share of Profits over later Policies.

Forms of Proposal, Balance Sheets, and every information, can be obtained from any of the Society's Agents, or of

GEORGE CUTCLIFFE, Actuary and Secretary.

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Policies payable during the lifetime of the Assured without extra Premium.

A FREE POLICY given for the total Premiums paid after 5 years, if unable to continue payment.

A Bonus from 24 to 50 per cent. was declared on Policies to December 31st, 1868.

ACTIVE LOCAL AND DISTRICT AGENTS WANTED.

For particulars, apply to JOHN G. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

£50,000 ready to be ADVANCED by the TEMPERANCE PERMANENT LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETY, on FREEHOLD or LEASEHOLD PROPERTY, for any period of years not exceeding 15, the mortgage being redeemable by equal Monthly Instalments. Interest (in addition to a small premium) 5 per cent. on the balance each year. Apply to

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Offices: 4, Ludgate-hill, London, E.C.

NOTE.—More than One Million and a Quarter Pounds sterling have been advanced upon house property alone.

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SHARES, £25 each, may be paid in one sum, or by Monthly Subscription of 5s. per share.

INVESTING MEMBERS receive 5 per cent. Interest, and Share of Surplus Profits.

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THE EDUCATION BILL.

At a MEETING of the NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE LOCAL COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY for the LIBERATION of RELIGION from STATE PATRONAGE and CONTROL, held APRIL 6, 1870, Mr. W. ANDERSON in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved:—

I.—That the Education Bill introduced by Her Majesty's Government contravenes the principle of religious equality—

1. By providing for the teaching of religion at the expense of the rate and taxpayers of the community. 2. By placing the children of Dissenters at a disadvantage in all the rural districts of the country. 3. By leaving to Local Boards, elected by Vestries and Town Councils, to determine whether any and what religion should be taught in schools founded by the Boards. 4. By allowing inspectors to make examinations in the character of the religious instruction given in these schools. 5. By introducing the principle of concurrent endowment, so that by national funds all denominations may be enabled to teach their own religious opinions.

II.—That the friends of the Liberation Society be urged to take prompt and decided action throughout the country to secure the removal of these serious defects from the Bill, and to obtain a measure which shall recognise the equal rights of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

III.—That, in the opinion of this committee, the passing of the Government measure in its present state would endanger the mixed school system of Ireland, tend to undo the great healing work of last session of Parliament, and interfere with the growth and development of a national and united feeling in a land that has been so long distracted by sectarian differences.

IV. That a petition embodying the foregoing resolutions be sent to Mr. Ald. Cowen, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY of the BRITISH SOCIETY for the PROPAGATION of the GOSPEL AMONG the JEWS.

The Committee have great pleasure in announcing the following arrangements:—

A PRAYER-MEETING will be held at Seven o'clock on WEDNESDAY evening, April 27, in CRAVEN-HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, near the Great Western Railway Station at Paddington, to Seek a Blessing on the succeeding Services. The Rev. A. MACMILLAN will preside.

The ANNUAL MEETING will take place at half-past Six on MONDAY evening, May 9, at Freemasons' Hall, when Lord ALFRED SPENCER CHURCHILL has kindly engaged to preside.

The ANNUAL SERMON will be delivered by Rev. DONALD FRASER, M.A., in the POULTRY CHAPEL, at Twelve o'clock at Noon on MONDAY, May 10.

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PADDINGTON CHAPEL.

It is intended to hold, about the middle of next June, a BAZAAR in aid of the IMPROVEMENT FUND. The sympathy and help of all friends of the Congregation are respectfully requested. Contributions of money, articles of clothing, needlework, china, toys, hardware, works of art, books, prints, &c., will be thankfully received. It is requested that contributions be forwarded as early as possible to

Mrs. MACGREGOR,
29, Clifton-road, St. John's-wood,
Mrs. STEVENSON,
90, Portdown-road, Malda-vale.

Hon. Secs.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—NEW ROUTE
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An improved service of Express and Fast Trains has been established between Sheffield and London; Through Carriages by all Trains.

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For particulars, see Time Tables issued by the Company.

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Derby.

PASSION WEEK.—Professor Pepper will repeat his Course of Four Lectures "On Astronomy and Spectrum Analysis" on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, at 2.30.—"The last New and Wonderful Ghost Effects, and other Optical Resources of the Polytechnic."—Mr. Forrester narrates the Romantic Tale of RIF VAN WINKLE, with extraordinary Diatomic and Spectral Scenes.—The American Organ daily.—GREAT NOVELTIES Easter Monday at ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

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Conducted by the Misses MABBS.

The year at this Establishment will henceforward be divided into three equal terms, beginning in January, April, and September.

The ENSUING TERM to commence on THURSDAY, April 28.

A VACANCY for an ARTICLED PUPIL.

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The Rev. H. M. STALLYBRASS RECEIVES a limited number of GENTLEMEN'S SONS to prepare for the Public Schools, Universities, and Commercial Pursuits.

NEXT TERM commences APRIL 26.

References.—Rev. J. R. Campbell, D.D., Bradford; Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster, Esq., M.P.

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Conducted by the Misses HEWITT, assisted by able Foreign and English Masters.

The PUPILS will REASSEMBLE on THURSDAY, April 28th.

References are kindly permitted to the Rev. Edward White, Tufnell Park; the Rev. Francis Tucker, 29, Hilldrop-road; and the Parents of Pupils.

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The SUMMER TERM will commence on MONDAY, May 2nd.

Prospectuses on application.

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The next Term will commence on MONDAY, May 2.

EDUCATION, HIGHGATE.—The PUPILS of the Rev. G. D. BARTLET, M.A., South-grove, Highgate, will REASSEMBLE on MONDAY, the 2nd of May.

PESTALOZZIAN BOARDING SCHOOL
for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, Misses TOVELL, 26, KING EDWARD'S-ROAD, HACKNEY.

Special attention to the moral and religious training of the Pupils. The comforts of home combined with the discipline of school. Subjects of instruction comprehensive and so taught as to cultivate the mind. Masters attend. House commodious and airy. Separate beds. Extensive recreation ground and garden close to a large park and common. References: Rev. J. J. Evans, Chaplain Home and Colonial Training College; Rev. G. B. Johnson, Edgbaston; Professor Dunning, Home and Colonial Training College; John T. Beighton, Esq., 7, Blomfield-street, City; also the parents of Pupils.

The NEXT TERM begins APRIL 28th.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals, The Misses HOWARD. Resident Foreign Governesses.

SUMMER TERM will commence MAY 5.

Terms and references on application.

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MASTERS.

French—Professor Paradis, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Literature.
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Classics—Mr. R. Burth, of the London University.

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Prospectuses on application to

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The air of Bromley has long been celebrated; and The Hythe is beautifully situated, near the Railway, and less than ten miles from London.

Mr. Vetch is permitted to refer to F. M. Sir John F. Burgoyne, Sir R. J. Murchison, L. L. Dillwyn, Esq., M.P., Rev. T. Binney, Rev. R. Halley, D.D., Rev. N. Hall, LL.B., Rev. J. C. Harrison, Rev. S. Martin, &c.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

HEATHFIELD, STONYGATE, LEICESTER.

The MISSES MIALl BFG to INFORM their numerous friends that from the next quarter (25th March) their ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES will be REMOVED to their New Residence, at the above address.

The House and Grounds are in every respect most suitable for a Ladies' School, having ample accommodation, and being situated in a delightful and healthy neighbourhood, within easy access of the town.

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Drawing and Painting	Mr. J. Hoob.
Chemistry	Dr. Albert J. Bernays, Professor of Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital, London.
Arithmetic	Mr. J. Hepworth.

The above branches of education are taught exclusively by the masters assigned to them. The general English education is under the immediate direction of the Principals and a competent staff of Governesses.

References to parents of pupils, and others, if required.

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Mrs. HEALEY, assisted by resident English and Foreign Governesses and eminent Masters, continues to educate a limited number of YOUNG LADIES.

The best facilities are afforded for acquiring a sound English education, and those seeking accomplishments will also find superior advantages. An ARTICLED PUPIL required. References to ministers and others.

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ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by MRS. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

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Contracted for by CROGGON & CO.,

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THE NEW VADE MECUM (invented and

manufactured by CHARLES H. VINCENT, Optician, of 23, Windsor-street, Liverpool) consists of a Telescope well adapted for Tourists, &c., to which is added an excellent Microscope of great power and first class definition, quite equal to others sold at ten times the price. Wonderful as it may seem, the price of this ingenious combination is only 3s. 6d., and Mr. Vincent sends it (carriage free) anywhere, with printed directions, upon receipt of a post-office order or stamps to the amount of 3s. 10d.

DINNEFORD'S
FLUID MAGNESIA.

The best remedy for

ACIDITY OF THE STOMACH,

HEARTBURN, HEADACHE, GOUT, and INDIGESTION; and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for LADIES, CHILDREN, and INFANTS.

DINNEFORD AND CO.,

172, New Bond-street, London, and of all Chemists.

CORNS and BUNIONS.—A gentleman, many years tormented with Corns, will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their complete removal in a short period, without pain or any inconvenience.—Forward address, on a stamped envelope, to F. Kingston, Esq., Church-street, Ware Herts.

PAINLESS and PRACTICAL DENTISTRY.

—By Mr. B. L. MOSELY, the Dentist by special appointment, 312, Regent-st., opposite the Royal Polytechnic. Established 1820. This, the only perfected system of painless dentistry, originated and invented by Mr. B. L. Mosely, is recommended by the hospitals and adopted by the profession as one of the greatest improvements of the age for the alleviation of pain and restoration of the natural functions, can solely be obtained in such perfected success (the result of forty years' practical experience) at his only residence, 312, Regent-st. The superlative excellence of this system is perfect immunity from pain, no operations, stumps and decayed teeth rendered useful, loose teeth and tender gums protected. Qualities:—These teeth never change colour or decay, in fit unerring, ease and comfort unsurpassed, detection impossible, the facial anatomy faithfully studied, and youthful appearance restored: mastication and articulation guaranteed.—The "Times," of March 6th, says:—"So good an imitation becomes the next best thing to the original." Teeth, from 5s.; sets, 5 to 30 guineas. Consultation free.—Only addresses, 312, Regent-st., exactly facing the Royal Polytechnic, and 23, Moorgate-street, City.

SPECIAL TO LADIES.

FASHIONS FOR SPRING.

JAMES SPENCE & Co., 76, 77, and 78, St. Paul's Churchyard, respectfully invite attention to the following specialities:—

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